



**Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG (haftungsbeschränkt)**  
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15/09/2021

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to inform you that the European Institute for Multidisciplinary Studies on Human Rights and Sciences - Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG (haftungsbeschränkt) reaffirms its commitment to the Ten Principles of the Global Compact on human rights, labor rights, environment and anti-corruption. Through this communication, we express our intention to continue to promote and implement these Principles within our sphere of influence. In addition, we will continue to promptly inform our stakeholders and the general public of this commitment.

We are also committed to maintaining our involvement with the United Nations Global Compact in the following form(s):

- Promote the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact and educate a variety of audiences about sustainability.
- Conduct applied research and thought leadership to advance best practices.
- Support UN Global Compact participating companies in implementing and reporting on their sustainability efforts.
- Lend capacity to the Global Compact Local Networks and/or the UN Global Compact in New York.
- Propose and implement corporate sustainability partnerships and engage with other stakeholders.
- Support UN Global Compact participating companies as they implement and report on their sustainability efforts.
- Engage with local Global Compact networks.

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- **2021:**

- **[Umfrage zu Drogenpolitik und Menschenrechten in Deutschland](#) (Survey of exploratory research on drug policy and human rights in Germany) **ONGOING RESEARCH\_DE (Final report will be in DE\_EN)****

Exploratory research conducted by the Knowmad Institut and LEAP Law Enforcement Against Prohibition Deutschland concerning the drug policy and human rights in Germany. The goal of this research is to develop a diagnosis of the current situation to serve as a tool for the incoming Bundestag and Civil Society Organizations in the effort to achieve a humanitarian reform of the current drug policy....[Survey URL\\_DE](#)

- **[Stigma & Discrimination related to Substance Abuse: Deconstructing sophism's towards Humanitarian Public Policies](#) **Discussion Paper\_EN\_ES****

This document was presented during the 64rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Over the past few decades, international research has documented that stigma and discrimination are one of the major barriers to care in the field of drug abuse worldwide. Objective: To show the findings of the international literature about specific populations that experience stigma or discrimination as one of the main barriers to care for substance abuse as well as to account for the development of public policies against stigma in mental health and addictions in consonance with goals 3, 10 and 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals...[Download Report in PDF\\_EN](#) | [Download Report in PDF\\_ES](#)

- **[Human Dignity Observatory: Monitoring & Information Center for Human Rights Violations during the Pandemic of COVID-19](#) **REPORT\_EN\_ES****

Report by the Human Dignity Observatory of the Knowmad Institut in cooperation with FESPAD (El Salvador), REDUC (Brazil) and LGBTI-Mexico (Mexico). The report was presented to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The visibility of human rights violations contributes to the strengthening of democracy and the defense of the rule of law. The political and social impact as a tool we are developing for human rights defenders and researchers...[Download Report in PDF\\_EN](#) | [Download Report in PDF\\_ES](#)

- **Translations & Publications Related [Rome Consensus 2.0](#):**

The Knowmad Institut is a member of #RomeConsensus 2.0 partnership and has provided translations in German, Portuguese, Norwegian, and Spanish.



- **2020:**

- **[Bitcoin & Dignidad Humana \(Bitcoin & Human Dignity\) BOOK\\_ES:](#)**

This book in Spanish arises from the lack of a text that illuminates the history of bitcoin more from a perspective on human dignity and less from business or technical development. It is suggested to read this text to get started and discover more social facets of what bitcoin implies, aspects related to human dignity, and sustainable development. Where it comes from and where it can go if each one of us takes action. We hope to have an updated version in English for OYW2022, as many ambassadors have asked me about it....[Book In PDF ES](#)

- **Education Under Occupation ([TWO-ARTICLE SERIES\\_EN\\_ES](#))**

- **[Education Under Occupation: Legal Framework – International Humanitarian Law](#)**

This article is part of the series Education under Occupation, which explores the legal responsibilities of Israel with respect to the Palestinian population living under the military occupation. This article describes the framework of International Humanitarian Law, including a short tour through its history and applicable normative bodies. This study pertains to the situation in Israel and Palestine, specifically to the military occupation of Palestine by Israeli forces...[Download Paper in PDF\\_EN](#) | [Download Paper in PDF\\_ES](#)

- **[Education Under Occupation: Obligations of the Occupying Power](#)**

In the present article, we will explore the obligations of the occupying power with specific attention to children's access to education, and we will present data and statistics reflecting daily restrictions to the realization of the right to education....[Download Paper in PDF\\_EN](#) | [Download Paper in PDF\\_ES](#)

- **[Tod und Trauer in Zeiten von COVID-19 \(Death and mourning in times of COVID-19\) PAPER\\_DE:](#)**

Death and mourning are phenomena that are gaining attention in light of the pandemic caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Both are social phenomena that open the doors to an empirical-reflexive approach from different perspectives: (a) first, the ideas of Vladimir Jankélévitch on death and its main dimensions in the experience of individuals, together with the proposal of assemblage and rhizome of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari; from anthropological, historical and sociological approach to mourning and death; b) the experiential evaluation of individuals -now in the midst of a pandemic- that evokes not only the mourning of significant people around them, but also a range of mourning related to the social context and the current situation; c) Changes in the rituals associated with death and their possible implications, especially in the social design processes, are emphasized; d) Social and individual elements and their relationship beyond a phenomenological expression, are presented; e) A proposal for a multidisciplinary approach to better understand the phenomenon and its possible implications during and after the pandemic...[Download Paper in PDF\\_DE](#)



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○ **Key recommendations for staff and volunteers on harm reduction services in time of Covid-19 crisis *Guidelines\_EN\_ES\_IT***

Within the activities of the Knowmad Institut as founding members of the #RomeConsensus 2.0 alliance towards a humanitarian drug policy (an initiative of the International Federation of the Red Cross), we have published a guide with Harm Reduction recommendations in the framework of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic: **EN:**

[https://bit.ly/COVID19\\_EN](https://bit.ly/COVID19_EN) | **ES:** [https://bit.ly/COVID19\\_ES](https://bit.ly/COVID19_ES) | **IT:** [https://bit.ly/COVID-19\\_ITR](https://bit.ly/COVID-19_ITR)

With some of you the communication has deepened, others of you are more busy now with your own projects. We would like to thank you all very much for joining this great team, for your support, your active participation, your advice and counsel, your long hours of designs, writing, videos, etc. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents. We greatly value your trust, contributions and support.

What we achieve between all of us this 2020 is quite a lot:

We participated in the **Sustainability Conference** in Berlin organized by ESPC (European School of Business) in January 2020.

We wrote a joint [statement with the Mexican organization Nierika A.C.](#) for the WHO public consultation about their Guide to ensure balanced national policies for access and safe use of medicines. Our speech highlighted concerns of vulnerable groups and multidisciplinary experts regarding **access to controlled medicines**.

We participated in the **CND in Vienna** in early March. There we contributed a statement from civil society, together with the Brazilian Harm Reduction organization, REDUC. We also had several meetings and reunions with partner organizations such as NORML Norway or Elternkreis Wien, and delegations from member states (Austria, Luxembourg, Canada, El Salvador, etc.). Thank you Nierika A.C for the financial support for the Vienna travel.

There we joined the initiative for a humanitarian drug policy **"Rome Consensus 2.0"** (initiated by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent) for which we are spokespersons in the German-speaking countries. We are part of the permanent communication group and are committed on several levels (f.ex the [Key Recommendations For Staff And Volunteers On Hr Services In Time Of Covid-19 Outbreak](#), translation of the recommendations and the declaration into various languages, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Norwegian and Japanese. Specific actions in German-speaking countries, etc.)

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The pandemic showed already in the first days the need for an **Observatory of human rights violations during the COVID-19 pandemic**, and we started working on it. We collected, classified and mapped human rights violations worldwide, which were denounced on Twitter. This project was joined by new partners such as REDUC (Brazilian Harm Reduction Network), LGBTMX, FESPAD (Foundation for the Study and Application of Law, El Salvador) and a very persevering and dedicated volunteer (Thank you, Monica Torres!). The processing of the data is taking place at the moment, as soon as the contributions of the partner organizations are ready, the final version of the report will be written, and we hope to publish it during the first quarter of the year, and it will be delivered to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others.

We also had an interaction with **LEAP** (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) - Germany, where I am supporting the steering committee in internal communication with the members and in international relations.

We attended virtually various proposals of the **United Nations Global Compact** (e.g. 2020 Leader Summit, conferences and webinars of the **German Global Compact Network**).

We joined the team of the **Psychedelic Society Berlin**.

We are supporters of the **International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness** that took place in Australia in November - <https://summit.mindmedicineaustralia.org/>

In December 2020, due to the health situation, it was not possible for civil society to participate in the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs' reconvened session, so we conducted and published an **analysis of the intersessional period and the vote on the reclassification of cannabis** that we virtually accompanied.

We published a book on **Bitcoin and Human Dignity** (spanish), by Martín Díaz, with the collaboration of Paula Rosales, Marcelo Montes, Ricardo Langlois.

We launched the **Journal** of the Knowmad Institute with articles of diverse nature.

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## Advocacy Actions & Specialized Events:

- **Events 2021:**

- **7th IAA Planetary Defense Conference**  
The International Academy of Astronautics will hold its 7th conference organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, in cooperation with the European Space Agency. The biannual conference brings together world experts to discuss the threat posed by asteroids and comets to Earth and the measures that could be taken to deflect a threatening object. As Knowmad Institut we participate in order **to make visible the interest** from the diverse sectors of civil society **to redirect military funds to the civil defense of the planet.**
- **64rd period of Sessions of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**  
As every year we participate in the session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), during this session we participated as Co-organizers of the side event **"Moving Beyond the Divisions in Order to Develop Humanitarian Drug Policies: The role of the Rome Consensus 2.0"** in conjunction with the *Fondazione Villa Maraini è Agenzia Nazionale di Croce Rossa Italiana per le dipendenze patologiche*, C4 Recovery Foundation, Levenson Foundation, PTACC, the UNODC and the Permanent Mission of Italy at International Organizations in Vienna. In addition, we present the discussion paper **"Stigma & Discrimination related to Substance Abuse: Deconstructing sophism's towards Humanitarian Public Policies"**.
- **UN Global Compact 20th Anniversary Leaders Summit**  
As a member of the Global Compact Alliance and the German Global Compact network, we actively participate in alliance meetings and events to sensitize members on the need for private policies of their companies that are aligned with the SDGs (related to goals 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17). In this way, we contribute to a less turbulent transition with true intergenerational cooperation during the fourth industrial revolution that will preserve the ethnosphere and human dignity.



- **World Social Forum**

The World Social Forum (WSF) is an annual summit of civil society organizations, held for the first time in Brazil, which offers a self-conscious effort to develop an alternative future through the defense of counter-hegemonic globalization. The WSF can be considered a visible manifestation of global civil society, bringing together non-governmental organizations, advocacy campaigns, and formal and informal social movements seeking international solidarity. This year we were accepted as part of this network and participated actively during the summit.
- **Humanitarian Drug Policy Across 5 Continents:**

In the framework of the global action day on June 26th, the commemorative day for the victims of the war on drugs, we were co-organizers of this event, together with the Fondazione Villa Maraini, the National Agency for Pathological Addictions of the Italian Red Cross, the C4 Recovery Foundation, the Levenson Foundation, and the PTACC.
- **Hanf Parade**

We participated as speakers in the parade for the regulation of Cannabis in Germany, being a critical voice towards the criminalization of people who use drugs and the unwanted effects of the current drug policy that only strengthens the power of organized crime and threatens the dignity and health of people.
- **December 2020**
  - **CND 63 interessional period**

During these sessions it was finally voted for the reclassification of Cannabis L. a process in which we were part of and in which we were able to advocate effectively and have real incidence whit the gubernamental representations in Vienna and to the UNODC and WHO. This is our post [about the CND vote](#) and these are some of the publications we contributed during the process in which we also participated in the consultations with expert groups during the process of more than 3 years:

    - **[Report: Cannabis & Sustainable Development](#) *Only in English***

The report was presented during the CND session with the support of the Government of Uruguay...[Download the Cannabis SDGs Report in PDF](#)



- **[Berlin Declaration](#)**

The Berlin Declaration is a document of high impact and global reach that brings together organizations, communities, representatives of the most diverse sectors of society and activists from all over the world. The statement is a blow to macro structures that ignore the significance of the Reform to the Current Model of Drug Control; A strategic issue for the development, health and safety of our societies.

The Berlin Declaration is promoted by the Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador (IEPES) and initiated by **Rev. Martin Diaz, Rev. Daniela Kreher and Rev. Michael Kleim** within the framework of the 500 years of the Protestant Reformation and in view of the United Nations Political Declaration on Drug Control in 2019. It has been signed by prominent personalities such as **Prof. David Nutt, Prof. Noam Chomsky, Dr. Raquel Peyraube, Father Solalinde**, as well as politicians, businessmen, and organizations from all over the world. ***The Declaration is in German, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian.***

- As a direct impact of the Berlin Declaration, the parliamentary citizens' initiative "**[Wiener Aufruf](#)**" (**[Document of the Austrian Parliament](#)**) was launched, which is based on the above-mentioned Berlin Declaration/Berliner Aufruf and which we also support.

- **[Analysis of the 40th and 41st ECDD reviews outcomes and the INCB's update on Cannabis. Only in English](#)**

On January 30, 2019, the Director General of the World Health Organization issued a letter citing the findings of the Organization's expert scientific reviews of Cannabis resin, extracts, tinctures and herbs, as well as THC and CBD, a process that began in November 2017 and is rooted in decades of erratic work. This paper analyzes the scope of the symbolic and regulatory implications of the outcome of the revisions, contained in the WHO Director-General's letter, and also scrutinizes the simultaneously published International Narcotics Control Board report on the medical and non-medical uses of Cannabis.

- **Reclassification of Cannabis: Summary of the Sixty-third Session, Second Intersessional Meeting. [DE Version](#) & [ES Version](#)**





- **[South African Dagga Private Clubs Initiative](#) *Only in English***  
We support with technical advisory in the elaboration of this guide.
  
- **Some Related Papers:**
  - **[Medicinal Plants: From Sanitary Fallacy to Medicine of the Future](#) [EN\\_Version](#) & [ES\\_Version](#)**
  - **[Antropologische Reflektion über Medikalisierung](#) (Anthropological Reflections on Medicalization) [DE\\_Version](#), [EN\\_Version](#) & [ES\\_Version](#)**
  - **Sacred Plants and Mental Health in Latin America** [EN\\_Version](#), [ES\\_Version](#) & [DE\\_Version](#)
  - **Change of regime and drug policy in Mexico** [ES\\_Version](#) & [DE\\_Version](#)
  - **[El Caso Pierce: Un Golpe al Modelo Prohibicionista Salvadoreño](#)** (The Pierce Case: A Strike Against the Salvadoran Prohibitionist Model) *Only in Spanish*
  
- **Next Months' Activities:**
- **CND 64 thematic interessionals HLM (October 19-21 2021, in Vienna, Austria)**  
Participation as a speaker during the discussion on "Increasing criminal use of information and communication technologies for illicit drug-related activities".
  - **Summary of our statement:**  
Efforts to combat organized crime, money laundering and terrorist financing should not be an obstacle to anonymity and encryption of digital communications that protect the privacy of individuals.

The right to privacy extends to our digital communications. This has been recognized by both the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, consistently affirming that the same rights that people have "offline" must also be protected "online," including the right to privacy (UN General Assembly Resolution on the right to privacy). General Assembly Resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age of December 18, 2014; resolution 68/167 of December 18, 2013; and Human Rights Council resolution 26/13 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet of June 26, 2014) to mention some documents that were born from the bosom of this Organization with the consensus of the governments represented here.



Therefore, and among multiple facts, it is important that international policies be effectively humanitarian, avoiding the criminalization of privacy and anonymity, and, while we await a humanitarian reform of the international model of drug control, it must be recognized that the darknet and cryptomarkets reduce the danger and threats faced by people who use drugs when accessing the substances they consume.

- **WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property (IP) and Frontier Technologies (Geneva, 22 to 23 September 2021)**

During our participation in the conversations, our Statement is focused on promoting balanced regulations on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence. We advocate for an ethical adoption process that allows for the preservation of the ethnosphere and human dignity (where the intellectual property of indigenous peoples, as well as biodiversity, is respected).

- **CND intersessional period**

As we do every year, we will participate in the closing of the current year's sessions, a meeting that stands out for its technical work and that gives us the opportunity to meet the public servants who do the bulk of the work prior to the political sessions, as well as to meet the new officials prior to next year's sessions.

- **Knowmad Short Film Festival**

This year we are organizing our first short film festival in the framework of the International Human Rights Day (December 10th). [EN\\_Call](#)  
[ES\\_Llamado](#)

- **One Young World Ambassadors Join Rome Consensus 2.0** [EN\\_Version](#), [ES\\_Version](#), [DE\\_Version](#)

- **One Young World Japan Committee Chair Joins Rome Consensus 2.0** [EN\\_Version](#), [ES\\_Version](#), [DE\\_Version](#)



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We support transparency and therefore commit to continue to report on the progress of our work every two years as indicated in the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

**Rev. Martin Diaz**  
**Co-Founder & CEO**  
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