Thirty years
FIGHTING DRUGS
through leadership and participatory cooperation

Thirty years have passed since we heard these expectations in many different languages, in many different contexts, from many different people while meeting them to formulate projects to help to serve their needs.

No matter what the colour of the skin, the nationality or ethnicity of the dress, the religion or belief of the heart, we have worked to listen and understand, devoting our energies in trying to contribute to improve the lives and the futures of the people we have encountered.

We have tried to add colours to the dreams of the young, to design paths for the journeys of the families, to soften the sleep of the old and the sick.

We have worked against the causes of pain, and against those responsible for the usurpation of people's choice. Out of so much pain, we hope that our gains have served the people.

Today, freedom from fear and freedom from want are the two essential tracks guiding UN activities in the enhancement of human security.

Have we done a good job so far?
That is for others to say. We provide here only the evidence coming from our history in East Asia.

"Give us easy minds and hearts,
Give us sufficient food and drink,
Give us health and strength,
Fulfil in us the hopes,
*   and longings of our hearts.*
Purify and cleanse us so we
*   will have good health.*
Unite us in the same purpose
*   and thoughts.*
Separate us from evil and
*   deliver us from misfortune.*
Protect and care for us,
Give us enough from our toil
*   and labour to live on."*

Lahu blessing[1]

Have we finished the job?
A drugs and crime free society is not only a destination, rather it is a very demanding and goal-oriented journey: a journey of people participation, inclusive education, transparency, with the vision to head as far as possible to separate us from evil.

Sandro Calvani
Representative

[1] *The blessing was heard when listening to village meetings of tribal people during the first fact finding mission to border areas where opium was cultivated, 1971.*