



Opening Remarks

11th National Drug Control System (NDS) User Group Meeting
2-4 April 2019, Ottawa, Canada



Statement by Gert Eidherr, Product Manager UNODC
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It is a great pleasure to join you for the 11th National Drug Control System (NDS) User Group Meeting here in Ottawa, Canada.

I would like to thank all of you for being here; and to extend our gratitude to Health Canada for its generosity in hosting this meeting and, thereby tangibly demonstrating its support for NDS again. Canada has already hosted a successful user group meeting in 2003

Thank you also for providing us with these wonderful conference facilities.

2019 is a special year for UNODC - this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Vienna International Centre (VIC), the seat of UNODC headquarters. In August 1979, the VIC was officially handed over by the Austrian authorities to the United Nations, making Vienna the third United Nations Secretariat duty station after New York and Geneva.

Since the first international conference on drug control was held in Shanghai more than 100 years ago, the issue of drugs has been a matter of global concern. In 1970, the international community agreed that prompt and decisive action by the United Nations family was imperative, a decision that led to the creation of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. In 1990, the General Assembly set up the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to coordinate international action in the field of drug control and, the following year, established the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. In 1997, the drug and crime programmes were brought together under the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which in 2002 became UNODC. In addition to implementing the United Nations' drug and crime programmes in an integrated manner, UNODC was established to ensure that the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism could be more effectively addressed in the context of sustainable development and



human security. Today, UNODC has about 500 staff members working at its Vienna headquarters and operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC works with Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism through field-based technical cooperation projects, research and analysis, as well as normative work, to assist States in the ratification and implementation of relevant international treaties. I wanted to give you a brief overview of UNODC's history, not only because there have been several anniversaries, but also to demonstrate that NDS has been around for quite some years; actually, since shortly after the General Assembly decision to establish the drug control program headquarter in Vienna. It will be recalled that, in 1994 when NDS was initiated, its main goal was to facilitate the reporting by governments of statistics to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) by electronic means. Today, it has become a management tool, based on a widely accepted standard, which automates the reporting on all licit drug control activities, nationally as well as internationally.

While there are reorganizations within the UN system NDS is in use since more than 25 years and will be around many more. Once in a while you may notice a new email signature, but that has no impact on NDS.

Today, I would like to share with you a few interesting developments in at the UN, which have an impact on NDS and you, our clients and partners.

Innovations around NDS Suite and I2ES

NDS is in use more than 25 years, and has grown from a basic application to a program suite with several packages. We also keep updating the modules of the NDS Program Suite. Latest amendments are the new NDSWEB2 which is built on a newer technology to stay up to date with continuously more demanding security requirements (e.g. 2D bar codes, more in the presentations) and is platform independent (this means no



more dependency on Microsoft Windows server) as several member states are not allowing Microsoft Windows Web server in their infrastructure. It also has / will have (we are still enhancing features and hope to received interesting input from you during this meeting) optimized workflows and enhanced data exchange functionality between countries using secure web services and I2ES. This is especially important for large trading countries with high volume and workload.

NDS has grown from a standard tool to a programme suite covering all aspects of domestic and international drug control for national authorities. Yet we still see opportunities for continued growth, including exchanging data with other agencies such as law enforcement or customs authorities that would mutually benefit all parties.

SPMS will continue working to align goPortfolio with the digital agenda of the United Nations, to strengthen ICT and ensure the UN and its Member States can better leverage technology to meet the SDGs and fulfill key mandates.

We also seek to better align the goPortfolio suite of products to the needs of Member States. For this reason, our engagement here can serve two clear purposes:

- a) continuing discussions around the provision of NDS Suite and I2ES;
- b) exploring the possibility of developing innovative tools to facilitate exchange of information and data that

Again, I would like to thank Health Canada for bringing us together in this beautiful city of Ottawa, which is my pleasure to visit again.

Let me conclude by wishing all of us a very constructive and fruitful meeting, building partnerships and innovating around this critical topic