



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the
Intersessional Meeting 7-9 November 2018, Commission on Narcotic Drugs 61st session

Vienna, 8 November 2018

Taking stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in light of the decision to establish 2019 as a target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

On 14 and 15 March 2019, the Ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will decide of the international drug policy for the next 10 years: – what do we want to achieve together and how.

It will be a critical moment to consolidate and build upon the important progress reflected in the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document.

The European Union and its Member States, consider all the commitments made by the international community to address and counter the world drug problem as a logical, sequential and progressive chain of important and inter-linked guiding documents. We regard them as parts of the progression and development of the international drug policy, formulated by, the CND and UNODC as the policymaking bodies and leading entities for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and adopted by consensus.

In the view of the European Union and its Member States, the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* have been an important pillar for the international drug policy since its adoption almost ten years ago.

Since 2009, we have witnessed an evolving reality and many new challenges linked to the World Drug Problem. We have continuously learned from our experiences and adapted in response to new insights and challenges. In 2016, building on the foundation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the international community adopted the UNGASS Outcome Document as the next step in addressing the world drug problem.

UNGASS reshaped and broadened global drug policy based on evidence, through introducing an even more balanced and comprehensive approach. This was done by putting an adequate focus on the health side of the drugs problem, including prevention, treatment, and risk and harm reduction, on vulnerable members of society, on emerging and persistent challenges and threats, on access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and on the link to Human Rights and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, whilst also reaffirming the unwavering commitment to supply reduction and related measures, including effective law enforcement; countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. The goals of the OP 36 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action are – all - reflected and - all -included in the UNGASS Outcome Document of 2016, which represents the most recent consensus on what we need to implement if we want to obtain some progress on the world drug situation. For the EU and its Member States, such inclusion is meaningful.

The EU and its Member States would therefore advocate for a full implementation of the recommendations of the UNGASS Outcome Document and we propose to put this implementation at the centre of our efforts and actions following the 2019 ministerial meeting: these recommendations constitute preconditions to achieve more effective results and make a greater impact on the world drug problem.

Thank you, Madam Chair.