



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the
Intersessional Meeting, 8 November 2018**

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

61st session

Preparations for the ministerial segment of the 62 CND

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[□], Montenegro^{*}, Iceland⁺, Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Norway⁺, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Andorra, Georgia and San Marino.

We consider the deliberations during the intersessional meetings as important steps on the path leading us to agreement on an outline document and ultimately to a successful CND high level segment next year. We would like to refer to our statement delivered on 28 September and on 25 October on the same issue. In this regard, we would like to highlight our interest in engaging, in a timely manner, in consultations on the draft outline, which shall be presented by 5 December for the purposes of the reconvened session of the CND.

We thank you for the recently circulated draft outline document. In our view, the outline to be presented by 5 December should be a short and concise document and serve as a basis for the further preparations of the ministerial segment and its outcome document. We are looking forward to engaging in discussions on your proposal. We see a responsibility of all of us, during this 61st reconvened session of the CND, to identify common ground and topics of convergence, which will constitute the elements for the outcome document of the ministerial segment in March next year. Let us listen to each other and concentrate on those issues that unite us all.

We want to share with all of you the elements, that we deem important to be included in the outline document and the outcome document of the ministerial segment. These elements are:

- Reaffirming the commitment to the three UN Drug conventions and the overarching guiding principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the cornerstone of the international drug control system;
- Reaffirming the CND as the primary body responsible for drug control matters and

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

⁺ Iceland and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

committing to strengthen the interagency cooperation between UNODC, as the leading entity, with other relevant UN-entities;

- Reaffirming the commitment to strengthen data collection, including national statistical capability and the ARQ;
- Recognising that the UNGASS operational recommendations are the guiding principles and measures for the way forward and their implementation should be accelerated in order to obtain concrete improvements by 2030;
- Setting 2030 as a timeframe for implementation of the UNGASS recommendations
 - and 2024 as a mid-term date to take stock of its implementation;
- Confirming that CND contributes to the achievement of the relevant SDGs (3 and 16 in particular); and finally
- Committing to the continued involvement of the civil society and the scientific community in the deliberations on the international drugs policy.

Madam Chair,

The EU and its Member States are fully committed to prepare a ministerial segment outcome document, which should in our view be a concise political text stemming from the existing international drugs policy and the relevant documents. In our view, this document has to reflect an ambitious, aspirational, responsible and gender-sensitive vision of the future of national actions and international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem. It has to accommodate a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach. Ministers should commit to accelerate the implementation of all the relevant commitments, in order to deliver an effective and evidence-based international drug policy. The EU and its Member States strive for a consensus but are also open to a frank debate on the set of commitments that the Ministers will be requested to endorse. The EU and its Member States believe that it is time to step up action in implementing the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document. We hope that the work in the coming months will result in a document that stresses this urgency for action.

Thank you!

