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Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-first session**

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem**Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem******I. International cooperation**

1. In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, whose title underscores the importance of international cooperation, Member States committed to increasing cooperation at the regional and international levels. In the Joint Ministerial Statement, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 2014 high-level review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States reiterated their strong commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. In the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016), representing the most recent consensus of the international community, Member States included a standalone chapter on strengthening international cooperation. The title of the outcome document, “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” acknowledges that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that needed to be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation.
2. In the UNGASS 2016 outcome document, Member States reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, while underlining the need to strengthen cooperation between the CND and UNODC with other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates.
3. In line with Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the CND is conducting its work, including its follow-up to the UNGASS 2016, in an inclusive

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** This document has not been edited.



and comprehensive manner, inviting relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as relevant non-governmental organizations to its meetings and encouraging them to actively contribute to its work. In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna, modern communication tools are used by the CND to enable remote participation, including the webcast of meetings and displaying pre-recorded video-messages from interested stakeholders around the world.

4. The call for increased cooperation is also directed at the United Nations system entities and specialized agencies (*see Chapter II for additional information*). In the UNGASS outcome document UNODC was encouraged to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes. The call for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels was reiterated in CND resolution 60/6, entitled “Intensifying coordination and cooperation among United Nations entities and relevant domestic sectors, including the health, education and criminal justice sectors, to address and counter the world drug problem”. Also in General Assembly resolutions [71/211](#) and [72/198](#), all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were encouraged to identify operational recommendations in the UNGASS outcome document that fell within their area of specialization and to commence implementing the recommendations that were within their existing mandates, in collaboration and cooperation with inter alia UNODC, while keeping the Commission informed of programmes and progress made to achieve goals set out in the outcome document.

5. Enhanced cooperation also takes place among United Nations intergovernmental bodies (*see Chapter III for additional information*). The Commission actively seeks to strengthen horizontal cooperation with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Through the organization of joint events on cross-cutting issues, the CND proactively reaches out to other functional commissions in order to further expand ongoing collaboration, interaction and an active exchange on issues of common interest.

II. Inter-agency cooperation

6. UNODC enhanced its cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) through the signing of a renewed memorandum of understanding in February 2017, which aims to promote greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing between the two organizations, including in the following fields: (a) prevention of drug use and drug use disorders; (b) treatment of drug use disorders; (c) access to controlled drugs for medical purposes; (d) new psychoactive substances; (e) prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support for HIV, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis; (f) prevention of violence and violence-related death; as well as (g) monitoring drug use and its health and social consequences.

7. At the initiative of the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Board, UNODC and WHO have been considering how they could further enhance their cooperation in the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document, thereby underscoring the commitment to support Member States in the UNGASS implementation, with the three entities complementing each other’s activities, in view of their different roles and mandates.

8. Following the decision by the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General dated 20 April 2017, UNODC has been tasked by the Secretary-General with leading the coordination with relevant United Nations entities in assisting Member States with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. Entities involved include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development

Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

9. Through a network of focal points, established on the basis of the decision of the Executive Committee, the CND Secretariat has been maintaining a close dialogue with the relevant United Nations partners and has been providing regular updates on progress made in the UNGASS follow-up undertaken by the Commission. UNODC also organized a briefing by the CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters for all interested United Nations entities in New York, to provide an update on the progress made by the CND with UNGASS implementation. During three rounds of CND thematic discussions on the UNGASS implementation, experts from UN Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, and the International Narcotics Control Board, participated along with national experts and representatives of other intergovernmental and international organizations as well as civil society organizations.

10. A number of United Nations system-wide activities have been initiated in response to that decision, including the development of a matrix of UNGASS-related action at HQs and in the field and a joint calendar of events. Both working tools are updated on a monthly basis and enable the relevant United Nations entities to share a comprehensive overview of joint and individual activities undertaken by their organizations in supporting Member States with the practical implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. UNODC plans to develop adjusted formats that would also enable the sharing of information with external partners, subject to the agreement of the respective entity.

11. In addition, UNODC has been working with United Nations entity partners on a shared UN-wide messaging, for use at Headquarters and the field. In a joint letter to the United Nations Resident Coordinators, the Executive Director of UNODC and the Administrator of UNDP, acting in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, invited United Nations country teams to integrate strategies for implementing the recommendations in the UNGASS outcome document into their support to national development efforts, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and in close consultation with the UNODC Field Representatives.

12. UNODC is looking forward to continuing throughout 2018 in leading the comprehensive United Nations system-wide strategic work in support of the preparations for the sixty-second session of the CND to be held in 2019.

13. Information is provided on work undertaken by United Nations entities relating to each of the seven thematic chapters of the UNGASS outcome document¹:

Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

Prevention of drug abuse

- UNODC continued to provide family skills training programmes to prevent drug use and other risky behaviours in eight countries. The Office started to develop a new evidence-based family skills programme for low-resource settings and for displaced populations. An evidence-based life skills education programme was organized in three countries, which involved the participation of 4,000 students aged 12 to 14 and led to a statistically significant reduction in the rates of initiation of substance use. Young people in low- and middle-income countries were mobilized through social networks and grants.

¹ The examples are taken from the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/72/225).

- A new guidance document addressing substance use in the education sector, issued by UNODC with UNESCO and WHO, was launched at the sixtieth session of the Commission.
- An expert group meeting was organized in June 2017 with a view to updating the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention. In addition to UNODC, the meeting involved the participation of CICAD, the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, EMCDDA, UNESCO and WHO.
- The Office trained more than 60 policymakers and national stakeholders from more than 20 countries on the nature of drug use disorders and its policy implications, and also trained more than 450 policymakers from six countries on evidence-based prevention interventions that are based on the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

Treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases

- Drug treatment, care and rehabilitation services were improved and expanded in 23 countries, in line with the UNODC/WHO international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, through training, technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation, and assessments utilizing the new UNODC/WHO facility survey. Activities included a feasibility study on the use of take-home naloxone for overdose prevention in countries of South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. WHO initiated the eleventh revision of the *International Classification of Diseases*, to be issued in 2018, with a revised section on disorders due to alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours, and maintained its Global Information System on Resources for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders.
- UNODC and WHO have initiated the development of new tools through the organization of expert working groups on treatment as an alternative to criminal justice sanctions, health-care responses to the use of new psychoactive substances in emergency settings, drug prevention and treatment in rural areas and quality assurance for treatment services. Other activities undertaken as part of the collaboration between UNODC and WHO include field testing of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, the identification and management of substance use and substance use disorders in pregnancy, normative guidance on the identification and management of disorders due to psychoactive drug use, including comorbidity with mental disorders. WHO also continued producing estimates of deaths and disability due to drug use disorders and estimates of the disease burden attributable to drug use.
- UNODC continued to disseminate evidence on comprehensive, gender-responsive and human rights-based HIV prevention, treatment and support for people who use drugs in the community and in prisons, in line with the WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users. UNODC, WHO and UNAIDS also developed *Implementing Comprehensive HIV and HCV Programmes with People Who Inject Drugs*, containing practical advice on implementing HIV and hepatitis C programmes for people who inject drugs. UNODC published tools for relevant service providers on improving cooperation with law enforcement officials and on civil society engagement in comprehensive HIV and hepatitis C programmes for people who inject drugs. UNODC supported four countries in institutionalizing the *Technical Guide* in police academies to remove barriers for access to HIV and hepatitis C services.

- UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO continued operating as a strategic advisory group to the United Nations and other partners on HIV and drug use. They also continued collaborating with partners, including civil society, on effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes and injection equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use. WHO continued setting norms and standards and developing guidelines on antiretroviral therapy and care, HIV testing services, prophylaxis of HIV infection and comprehensive HIV services for key populations.

Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

- The Office continued to implement and expand the joint global programme of UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes while preventing diversion and abuse. During the reporting period, technical assistance was provided through the Joint Global Programme to Ghana and Timor-Leste and was also initiated in Antigua and Barbuda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Panama.
- Following the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States have been giving high priority to addressing barriers in order to increase access to essential controlled medicines, while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse. At the national level, the focus remained on creating an environment in which the patient's medical needs are the basis for pharmacological interventions, including appropriate medical use of the spectrum of pain medication.

Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

Prevention of drug-related crime

- UNODC continued to support Member States through the provision of technical assistance in the prevention of both drug-related crime and drug abuse, thereby advocating for an integrated, multi-sector approach and highlighting the need for appropriate social policies. In Brazil, as part of its Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC piloted an evidence-informed initiative on youth crime and drug prevention that is aimed at fostering life skills through sport. In Ethiopia and Myanmar, UNODC assisted in the development of national crime prevention strategies that included measures to address social conditions associated with drug-related crime.
- The work is carried out in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN-Women and WHO. For example, UNODC is closely involved with WHO in the preparation of the forthcoming second edition of the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention. The report will include a status update on drug-related forms of violence, which will enable Member States to develop evidence-based responses aimed at prevention.

Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

- Pursuant to its mandates under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC provided technical assistance to Member States across all regions to support efforts to combat drug trafficking, strengthen border control and counter the laundering of the proceeds of crime.

Focus was placed on supporting regional efforts to improve the coordination and sharing of information on transnational drug trafficking groups and on preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals.

- Legislative assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan, Peru and Ukraine in support of their review of national drug control legislation. UNODC completed work on redeveloping a mutual legal assistance request writer tool, which includes features on asset recovery, transfer of criminal proceedings, videoconferencing and joint investigations as well as an electronic-evidence module targeting cybercrime investigations.
- UNODC supported cooperation among regional law enforcement agencies, including the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime established operational links between international and regional law enforcement centres and organizations. It encourages cooperation in specialized training techniques and features a capacity-building initiative — the Law Enforcement Training Network, also known as LE TrainNet — that links law enforcement training institutions.
- Together with WCO, UNODC is implementing the Container Control Programme SEA, addressing the security of maritime trade supply in order to prevent trafficking. The initiative has been adopted by 32 Member States in 50 ports. Significant quantities of drugs and precursor chemicals have been intercepted. In partnership with WCO and ICAO, the Container Control Programme AIR was launched in 2015 in seven countries to address the security of the supply chain in air cargo. The Airport Communication Project of UNODC, supported by WCO and INTERPOL, focuses on intercepting air passengers engaged in trafficking.
- UNODC launched a criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation initiative (CRIMJUST) that targets the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. Implemented with INTERPOL and Transparency International, this programme is delivering targeted assistance to criminal justice institutions in order to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate trafficking offences.

Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities; Promoting judicial cooperation

- Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC helped build capacity for 75 requesting countries in nine subregions. Ongoing assistance by UNODC included training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies.
- UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa. UNODC also provided substantive assistance to OAS to establish the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Caribbean.
- UNODC developed a state-of-the-art cryptocurrency investigation train-the-trainers course, which is focused on developing a new set of skills that enhances collaboration between investigators, promotes an understanding of the

cryptocurrency concept and encourages international cooperation on cryptocurrency cases.

- UNODC also continued its work to update the website of the International Money-Laundering Information Network and to expand its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database.
- In order to facilitate international cooperation, UNODC provided support for the establishment of informal networks of prosecutors and central authorities, including the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus.
- UNODC, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs continued their work on the West Africa Coast Initiative to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. The Initiative supports the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Action Plan to address the growing problem of drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. UNDP provides support to UNODC field operations in the roll-out of technical programmes. UNICRI and UNODC collaborate on initiatives to address elements of drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and related offences. In addition, UNODC works with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) on measures to address firearms control.
- The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued activities to promote more coherent support by the international community to the development and governance priorities of the Government of Afghanistan, in particular with regard to development, reconstruction and counternarcotics activities. UNAMA enhanced cooperation with UNODC in order to support the Government's efforts to improve governance and the rule of law, including transitional justice and the fight against corruption.
- The Department of Political Affairs supported the establishment of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, which published a report focused on the illegal financing of political parties, highlighting links with drug cartels. The Department of Political Affairs also reported on the fifth meeting of the mini-Dublin Group, an informal coordination group on countering illicit drugs, which was hosted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat in June 2017.

Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities

- The prevention initiatives of UNODC target vulnerabilities in the development of young people, thereby preventing not only drug and substance abuse, but also delinquency, violence, crime and other risky behaviours. UNODC, among others, continued to strengthen the provision of psychosocial services for children and youth exposed to drugs at a very young age in six countries. UN-Women implemented a community-based project entitled Planim Save Kamap Strongpela in Papua New Guinea, which included targeted training for young people that was focused on preventing self-harm and alcohol and drug abuse.
- The UNODC/WHO international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders cover specific services for adolescents and for girls and women. UNODC and WHO also initiated the dissemination of the WHO guidelines on

the management of substance use disorders among pregnant women in Latin America.

- In the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, UNODC published a tool for relevant service providers on addressing the specific needs of women who inject drugs. UN-Women implemented a project in Kazakhstan to improve the gender responsiveness of the national HIV policy and strengthen the capacity of women living with HIV to become actors of change, in partnership with UNAIDS, and implemented projects for women living with HIV and using drugs in the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.
- UNODC continued to support Member States in mainstreaming a gender perspective into justice-related aspects of drug policies, in conformity with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). UNODC also continued to support Member States in implementing age-appropriate practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations standards and norms on justice for children, in Cabo Verde, Colombia and Uruguay.
- UNODC, UN-Women, OHCHR, UNDP and others are developing a manual for practitioners on women's access to justice programming, which includes a focus on the gender dimension of the world drug problem and guidance to make justice systems and responses more gender-sensitive. The UN-Women programme in Egypt on freedom from drugs and HIV improved the family and community life of people accused of sexual harassment, leading to a reduction in violence against women and recidivism in those communities.
- UNDP engaged in research publications on drug control and human rights and is in the process of working on the development of international guidelines on human rights and drug control, in cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and other entities.

Proportionate and effective policies and responses

- UNODC, together with WHO, organized a meeting of experts from approximately 30 countries to exchange experiences on effective strategies for treatment and care as alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. A handbook aimed at mapping existing experiences and good practices in this area is currently under development, in collaboration with WHO. In six countries, UNODC supported partnerships between the police and civil society organizations implementing HIV services for people who use drugs with a view to developing and implementing police referral schemes as alternatives to incarceration.
- UNODC and UNDP launched the global study on legal aid, which addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, including drug users and persons living with HIV and other serious contagious diseases, to gain meaningful access to legal aid.
- To assist States in addressing the security problems affecting prisons that hold prisoners associated with organized crime, drug trafficking rings and terrorism, UNODC developed the *Handbook on the Management of High Risk Prisoners* and the *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*.

Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals

- The challenge of detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances poses a major obstacle to effective health and treatment interventions and law enforcement efforts. The emergence of fentanyl analogues has also been associated with a rising numbers of overdose events, including fatal intoxications, among opioid users. At the third UNODC-WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, held on 3 and 4 May 2016, practical ways for collecting robust data for the prioritization and review of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances at the international level were explored. Information on the prioritization of new psychoactive substances was provided to WHO for the review of substances at the thirty-eighth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.
- The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction as well as WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. The UNODC expert consultation on forensic toxicology and drug control, held in June 2016, discussed practical ways of collecting and sharing toxicology- and health-related data, which will feed into the early warning advisory.
- Taking into consideration the operational recommendations of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, UNODC continued its efforts to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote collaboration for the detection and identification of drugs, including new psychoactive substances, through the development of manuals and guidelines on procedural approaches. Such efforts included the development of analytical methodologies to address laboratory challenges in the identification of newly scheduled drugs, such as fentanyl analogues; the use of respective UNODC reference standards; and the international collaborative exercise for national laboratories and assistance activities, in which 221 laboratories from 69 Member States participated. Scientific support was provided to law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, and tools and training were provided to countries in South-East Asia.

New trends, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, data collection and research

- Assistance in the monitoring of illicit crops and production was provided to the following Member States in 2016: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru for the monitoring of coca bush cultivation; and Afghanistan, Mexico and Myanmar for the monitoring of opium poppy cultivation. Assistance was also provided for carrying out a cannabis survey in Nigeria. Within the framework of the Afghan opiates trade project, an assessment was initiated of the trafficking of Afghan opiates through Central Asia to the Russian Federation.

- UNODC provided support in the design and implementation of drug use surveys in Myanmar and Nigeria. UNODC is also providing support to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in the design of drug use surveys for young people, to be implemented over the course of 2017.
- UNODC continued to collaborate with a number of international and regional entities in the delivery of drug-related research activities. Joint UNODC-WHO-UNAIDS-World Bank estimates were produced in 2017 on people who inject drugs, including those with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. A coordination working group was established in 2016 by WHO and UNODC on epidemiological data on drugs, which included the participation of the African Union; CICAD; ECOWAS; EMCDDA; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; the Pompidou Group and UNAIDS. The purpose of the working group was to strengthen the coordination and harmonization of international efforts on drug epidemiology data through discussion and review of methodological issues and by exploring ways to complement existing statistical activities, including data collection and capacity-building activities. WHO continued to provide technical support for national monitoring efforts using its population-based surveillance approaches and health service-based monitoring tools and continued to provide estimates concerning the disease burden attributable to drug use disorders.

Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

- In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States highlighted the need to strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with UNODC, as well as with WHO and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem.
- In its resolution 60/1 on preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019, the Commission requested UNODC to enhance, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, technical assistance in consultation with requesting Member States and in cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities and stakeholders. The Commission intends to focus on technical assistance needs and capacities in the next round of thematic discussions on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document, which will be held in the second half of 2017. UNODC has developed an awareness-raising workshop that can assist Member States in identifying technical assistance needs and in making a self-assessment with respect to the implementation of the operational recommendations.
- With reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission submitted a substantive contribution, on the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, for consideration at the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017. In this regard, the Commission also strengthened its cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Social Development.

Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

- UNODC continued to work closely with Member States to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related operational recommendations of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. The Office has been organizing, together with Germany and Thailand, a series of expert group meetings. The first meeting, held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2016, was attended by Member State officials, alternative development experts and representatives of civil society, who discussed how to broaden the scope of development within the international drug control framework. In response to requests from States, UNODC, in partnership with Germany and Thailand, will explore ways to implement alternative development in the area of cultivation of cannabis.
- Technical assistance provided by UNODC to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru continued to focus on improving the socioeconomic situation of rural farming communities and sustainably reducing illicit crop cultivation. Work in long-term cash crops in Myanmar resulted in the first-ever harvest of high-quality coffee. In Colombia, environmental conservation related to alternative development was strengthened.
- UNODC started working on a methodology to improve impact assessments of alternative development projects in the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, with a view to better integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into such assessments.

III. Inter-commissions cooperation

14. Two out of the eight functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council — the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice — are located in Vienna. At the initiative of the Chair of its sixtieth session, the CND started to actively reach out to other commissions with a view to further strengthening horizontal cooperation, in the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through organizing joint events on cross-cutting issues, including the following.

15. In December 2017, at the opening of the sixtieth session of the CND, a joint event was organized by the CND and the Commission on the Status of Women, together with UNODC and UN Women, to share information on efforts undertaken by those two commissions in support of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls.

16. Prior to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), in July 2017, a roundtable discussion on the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was hosted by UN Women and UNODC with the Chairs of functional commissions. The Chairs of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the Commission on the Status of Women, jointly discussed how those commissions, within their specific mandates and fields of expertise, could jointly contribute to a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

17. Furthermore, in the area of data collection, the Commission is reaching out, and benefiting from, the expertise of the United Nations Statistical Commission. At the sixtieth anniversary session of the CND, the Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission addressed the CND through a video message under the agenda item “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with

General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the reconvened sixtieth session in December 2017, a joint special event was organized by the Commission and the United Nations Statistical Commission to discuss drugs statistics, in particular practices and challenges in relation to data quality and the national capacity to produce drug statistics, also in view of a UNODC expert consultation meeting, organized in January 2018, to discuss improvements to the annual report questionnaire.
