

Reconvened fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

*Special segment on follow-up to the special session of the
General Assembly on the world drug problem*

30 November 2016

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator.

The Government of Mexico considers that UNGASS 2016 constituted a paradigm shift in the terms of the international debate on drugs. The outcome document which we, the Member States of the United Nations, adopted last April at the General Assembly, represents a significant step forward towards a more comprehensive and balanced international drug strategy.

The operational recommendations contained in the outcome of the Special Session, divided into seven thematic areas, make it the most progressive multilateral text to date on drug matters, consistent with the new realities of the world drug problem, based on a comprehensive approach to prevention, and reflecting more balanced, just and humane elements.

The modern vision which UNGASS provided us with, has now been incorporated into the General Assembly's omnibus resolution on "International cooperation against the world drug problem", allowing us to focus on its seven substantive sections. The responsibility of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs in reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations provides a unique opportunity to maintain the political momentum generated by the Special Session, and to accomplish its objectives.

We therefore welcome, Mr. Facilitator, your initiative to convene this Special segment, as well as the thematic debates that preceded it, for the CND to foster a dialogue on the best practices and challenges related to the implementation of the operational recommendations adopted in New York.

On this occasion, Mexico would like to share with the room that as part of our commitment to the follow-up of the Special session and our efforts aimed at effectively implementing its outcome, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized a series of national dialogues following the seven thematic sections, which have been carried out as of September of this year.

The objective of these dialogues has been to promote an open and decisive debate on how to improve our drug policies, in keeping up our efforts against organized crime, while undertaking more efficient actions to prevent the violence generated by illicit drug markets.

Once all seven dialogues have taken place by March 2017, Mexico is committed to sharing with the Commission the conclusions we arrive at, the best practices identified and lessons learned, with a view to contributing to our discussions on the review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which will take place in 2019.

Regarding the deliberations at the international level, both the preparatory process and the discussions during UNGASS have already provided some insight as to how to move forward towards achieving the commitments undertaken at the Special Session. It has become clear that national efforts and international cooperation related to drug policy is not limited to the work of the CND, but are rather the responsibility of the international community as a whole, supported by all relevant agencies of the UN System, as well as by civil society.

Mexico will continue to advocate for greater involvement of all Member States in deliberations on the world drug problem, and towards strengthening coordination and coherence between the Commission and the rest of the United Nations entities, including the General Assembly.

For example, it has become clear that greater engagement of the WHO in the work of the CND is required, with a view to developing efficient measures to address the public health dimension of the world drug problem, and to reduce the harmful health consequences of drug use to a minimum. We welcome the increased coordination between WHO and UNODC, and in this regard, recognize that greater collaboration with UNAIDS will be fundamental in preventing HIV transmission through the provision of services in prison settings, as well as among injecting drug users.

In the same spirit, INCB played an unquestionable role in the lead up to UNGASS in stressing the importance of ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical purposes. We rely on their technical support for all Member States to implement the recommendations regarding the simplification and rationalization of unduly restrictive processes and regulations, improving our annual estimates, and training medical personnel on the adequate use of substances, particularly for pain relief.

Furthermore, UNGASS shed light on the need for supply reduction measures to be complemented by efforts to prevent violence. Without prejudice to decisive action against organized crime, we must work to rebuild and strengthen the social fabric, community cohesion, and a sense of belonging, under a comprehensive approach to prevention.

In regards to the human rights dimension of the world drug problem and attention to priority groups, the Commission has already taken steps forward by recognizing the implementation of alternatives to incarceration and non-custodial measures for minor drug-related offences. I can also not fail to mention the adoption of CND resolution 59/5 and the working group which took place at the HONLEA Latin America and the Caribbean, as initial steps in the right direction towards ensuring that drug policies are designed and implemented with a gender perspective.

Mr. Facilitator,

Less than a week ago, the President of the General Assembly underscored here in Vienna the urgent need to break out of silos in our work, in order to ensure delivery on the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNGASS implementation should therefore consider socioeconomic issues and address the root causes and consequences of the world drug problem. Ongoing efforts to develop an indicator framework for the follow-up of the Agenda 2030 goals and targets, must be complemented by improved indicators and tools that allow us to measure all dimension of this phenomenon.

Our efforts must translate into action that provide better opportunities and conditions for all our peoples, those in rural areas involved in the cultivation of illicit crops, as well as those in urban settings where illicit manufacturing and trafficking take place.

UNGASS is not the end of a process, but rather the beginning of a much deeper debate. Therein relies the importance of focusing our efforts so that States may implement the operational recommendations of the UNGASS outcome document at a national level, but also through collective action, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator.