

Statement of the Delegation of Portugal
on the thematic discussion on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome
document – *Operational recommendations on strengthening international*
cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

Vienna, 25 January 2017

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator,

The thematic chapter on international cooperation includes a recommendation (paragraph 6. c) on the importance of *strengthening the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners of different fields and at all levels*, including in the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Portugal is open to discuss with its partners ways to put into practice that recommendation aimed at *effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects*.

The HONLEAs have been providing along the years a very positive framework for discussion and cooperation among law enforcement agencies. It is important that that dialogue is preserved. At the same time, however, we should reflect whether the only subsidiary bodies of the CND of a regional nature should continue to dedicate their sessions to only one aspect of world drug problem: supply reduction.

Without compromising the existing cooperation, it would be important to consider the possibility of opening the discussions in the subsidiary bodies to other thematic areas included in the UNGASS outcome document and of extending the participation to practitioners in those fields. The aim would be to

complement, not to replace or reduce the importance of the existing dialogue and cooperation maintained in the subsidiary bodies – in an effort to implement a more balanced approach to the world drug problem.

Some initial steps were already taken in that direction in recent meetings of the HONLEA and the feedback received from those experiences is positive. We believe that over the coming months that process could now be strengthened, consolidated and formalized. Portugal will remain open to participate in that debate.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator.