

## **Thematic CND Intersessionals – supply reduction**

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

Chair,

Drug trafficking and other forms of organised crime pose a significant threat to the safety, security and stability of all our nations. Around half of the organised crime groups operating against the UK are involved in drug-related crime. These organised crime groups evade or defraud state systems associated with tax, duty and benefits. They weaken governance and the rule of law, and fuel conflict and instability.

The scale of the problem is significant, and the threat has a broad geographic spread. This threat is enabled by corruption and money laundering, and increasingly takes place online.

To address this shared and complex problem, we need to strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice responses.

The Outcome Document recommends that we address the factors that facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organised crime. We can achieve this by fostering strong, resilient governance and providing licit socio-economic opportunities which will help to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into organised crime.

Understanding what works is key to delivering this. We need to improve the availability and quality of impact indicators related to organised crime, so that we are better able to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of our responses.

Promoting a balanced, comprehensive approach that disrupts *and* prevents organised crime is the best way to tackle this threat.

Chair,

An effective approach to supply reduction requires a proportionate criminal justice system. The United Kingdom implements a smart, proportionate criminal justice response at each stage of the process.

This includes alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offences, and integration of criminal justice and health services to ensure that offenders who misuse drugs get the support they need.

Alternatives to incarceration are likely to be most effective when focused on constructive behaviour change, such as requiring an offender to undertake work to support their local community.

The resolution on proportionality passed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March highlights that proportionate sentencing helps to ensure a just, humane and effective criminal justice response. Both this resolution and the Outcome Document note the importance of taking both aggravating and mitigating factors into account in sentencing.

In the UK, this is achieved through independently-produced sentencing guidelines which ensure consistency and proportionality and that the particular circumstances of each case are considered against relevant culpability and harm factors.

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For example, the guidelines provide courts with advice on establishing whether an offender played a major or a minor role in drug supply. Lower sentences are advised where an offender was coerced or if they were sharing a minimal quantity with peers for no profit.

The vast majority of people caught in possession of an illegal drug in the UK are not imprisoned, with only 3 per cent of offenders found guilty of a drug possession offence in 2014 being sentenced to immediate custody.

The Outcome Document recommends that experience on implementing proportionate sentencing is shared through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The UK stands ready to work with Member States, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and other international organizations to share best practice in this field.