



**European Union**

**Statement on the occasion of the  
Intersessional Meeting 16-17 November 2017**

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs 60th session**

**Vienna, 17 November 2017**

Implementation of CND resolution 60/1 - Discussion on the preparations for the ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session, to be held in 2019

Madam Chair,

Mr Facilitator,

The European Union and its Member States wish to thank you for organising this intersessional meeting in which we can share our views on preparations for the sixty-second session of the CND in 2019. The EU and its Member States acknowledge the steps made with the three UN documents adopted in the past decade: the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. We wish to continue developing the drug policies and work towards and beyond 2019 in implementing the UNGASS outcome document and its operational recommendations.

We know that since 2009 policies, practice and knowledge have evolved. The EU and its Member States believe that, building on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 and the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly

of 2016 outlines the most recent situation and developments of the world drug problem and represents the latest new global consensus in drug policies. As enshrined in the EU Drugs Strategy, we recognize the need for a comprehensive, balanced and evidence-based approach to drug policy. Therefore, we strongly support the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and specific instruments for its implementation in order to strengthen public health and human rights dimension of the world drugs problem, which globally should receive at least the same attention and commitment than the remaining elements of the global drug policy, as for instance the law enforcement side. The previous intersessional meetings, focusing on the seven chapters of the UNGASS outcome document, allowed us to see the progress made under these topics. The best practices shared showed a wide variety of policy solutions to an equally varied array of problems and national/regional situations. The UNGASS outcome document structure gives us an opportunity to discuss all these complementary and mutually reinforcing dimensions.

In that light, the priority for the EU and its Member States as regards the ministerial segment of the 2019 CND session is the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the UNGASS outcome document. When it comes to conducting a review of the progress made in addressing the world drug problem, we support an assessment which would be objective, scientific and evidence-based. The EU and its Member States find UNODC to be best placed to conduct such assessment, supported by other UN agencies and relevant regional and international organisations to make the best possible use of existing sources of information, like other review schemes, including regional mechanisms, and does not impose additional burden for Member States and their practitioners.

The EU and its Member States welcome the work commenced to improve drug-related statistics. When collecting only relevant and reliable drug statistics we can be sure of providing the right response to the world drug phenomenon. Therefore, we need to ensure that future work towards and beyond 2019 will lay groundwork in identifying gaps in the current drug statistics and explore possibilities to strengthen existing data collection and analysis tools at the international and national level. All possibilities to strengthen and streamline existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, should be analysed in this process. The EU and its Member States see two important directions in which this work should proceed: first, streamlining and simplifying the annual report questionnaire so as to increase the response rate; second, including new questions related to the lacking UNGASS indicators reflecting this renewed UN approach to the world drug problem, for example on new

psychoactive substances or alternatives to coercive sanctions. Last but not least, the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address and counter the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Therefore, the EU seeks to further strengthen the link between the UNGASS recommendations and drug-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam Chair, Mr Facilitator,

The EU and its Member States consider the UNGASS outcome document to be the pivotal document in the field of drugs representing the latest renewed consensus. Encompassing the relevant aspects of the previous agreements, the UNGASS outcome document shows the way forward to 2019 and beyond. Therefore, efforts in view of the ministerial segment of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the CND should be focused on implementing commitments made during the UNGASS in 2016. We should not negotiate a new political document. We also believe that any review to be conducted should be cost-effective and transparent. It must include all relevant UN agencies and involve civil society and scientific community.

Thank you!

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