

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les travaux des co-présidents ayants été effectués en anglais, je m'adresserai à cette Assemblée en anglais :

It is my great pleasure to present the Co-Chairs summary of the salient points of Round Table 3 “Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities” which was held on 20 April 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Round table 3 was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Karoly Dan, the vice-chair of the UNGASS Board and myself.

The co-Chairs' summary of the salient points that I will be presenting was not subject to negotiations. The salient points summarized by the Co-Chairs are as follows:

Many speakers representing Member States, civil society organizations and United Nations entities welcomed the convening of a roundtable dedicated to discussing human rights related to the

world drug problem. In this regard, a number of speakers noted with appreciation the references to the section on human rights in the outcome document of this special session.

In the course of the discussion, references were made to the right to life, the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, access to controlled substances for medical purposes, non-discrimination and gender equality, the rights of children, indigenous peoples, the prohibition of arbitrary detention, torture and other forms of inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment and extrajudicial killings. The rights of families were also mentioned. Some speakers underscored the need to consider the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups, for reasons of age, ethnicity, racial or socio-economical conditions.

Many speakers highlighted the importance of a public health-centered approach, as part of comprehensive and balanced drug control policies that place human beings at their centre and are grounded on the principle of common and shared responsibility. The importance of effective law enforcement as part of such policies was also mentioned.

Many speakers noted the need to ensure access to effective and evidence-based prevention, treatment, care, recovery and social reintegration services. In this regard, the supporting role of families was highlighted. The importance of informed consent to drug dependence treatment was also noted. Reference was further made to stigmatization and criminalization of drug use as barriers to access these services.

Several speakers referred to benefits of risk and harm reduction measures, including opioid substitution treatment and needle and syringe exchange programmes in the context of prevention and treatment of HIV and other blood borne diseases.

It was also mentioned that the international drug control conventions allow States flexibility to adapt their policies to national circumstances.

In the context of criminal justice measures, many speakers highlighted the importance of proportionality of sentencing and of alternatives to conviction or punishment for non-violent and minor

drug-related offences. It was also mentioned that both aggravating and mitigating circumstances should be taken into account.

Many speakers stated their opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, and in particular for drug-related offences. Other speakers noted that national sovereignty with respect to drug policy decisions, and national policies aiming at a drug-free environment should be respected.

Many speakers referred to the necessity to implement gender-sensitive and –responsive policies tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of female drug users and drug offenders, and to mitigate the negative impact on their families. Reference was made to stigmatization, violence, disproportionate sentencing, prior victimization, poverty, specific needs of pregnant women and women with caretaking responsibilities. The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) were mentioned in this regard.

Speakers also pointed to the need to focus on the promotion and protection of children's rights, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires measures to protect children from the illicit use of drugs and to prevent their exploitation in illicit drug production and trafficking. The need to invest in the proper development of children and young people through prevention and education was stressed. To this end, it was necessary to foster cooperation among the health, child protection and justice systems.