

check against delivery BRAZIL

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I would like to congratulate you for your election, as well as the other members of the Bureau of the CND and also the members of the Board tasked with preparations for UNGASS 2016. You may count with the full support of the Brazilian delegation. I would also like to thank the UNODC Executive Director and, through him, the Secretariat for the excellent preparations for this meeting.

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates,

Brazil attaches the highest possible priority to the principle of common and shared responsibility as a core element to successfully address the world drug problem. In this spirit, we welcome the opportunity for further discussions on this serious challenge during this special segment of the current CND Session, dedicated to the preparation of UNGASS 2016.

Brazil's vision regarding key issues to be discussed at UNGASS 2016 is based on important progress we have been able to achieve at a national level. We seek to implement an integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach, based on scientific evidence, respecting human rights and emphasizing health concerns with regard to drug users.

The review of the National Drug Policy and approval of Law 11.343, from 2006, established a balanced approach between actions to fight supply and demand. This policy includes a differentiated treatment towards drug users - who are not subject to incarceration - and a special focus on prevention, care, treatment and social reintegration.

We have significantly expanded the treatment network for drug users. We note with satisfaction that the INCB Report pointed out in paragraph 455 that (and I quote) "the Government of Brazil has invested heavily in drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation" (end of quote).

Indeed, Brazil considers it essential to recognize that the use of drugs is a public-health issue, which requires improving health services, qualifying health professionals, as well as avoiding concepts that stigmatize or marginalize drug users. These necessary advancements in the health approach to drug use rely heavily on the development and consolidation of solid scientific research.

In this regard, the Brazilian government has been implementing, since 2011, a national plan to combat "crack" and other drugs. With this plan, which promotes civil society participation, Brazil reaffirms its commitment to the consolidation of a public network of prevention, care, treatment and social reintegration of drug users. In this context, let me mention that civil society has become a key partner in Brazil's efforts to address the drug problem. My Delegation takes this opportunity to highlight the importance of its contribution to our common endeavors.

Let me also emphasize that Brazil continues to be focused on the need to combating drug trafficking and money laundering. This is a challenge that will continue to require enhanced international cooperation and continuous intelligence work.

Mr. President,

Although progress has been achieved in addressing the world drug problem, it is just obvious to state that it remains a serious challenge to all countries and therefore it calls for strengthened multilateral efforts, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Brazil has been fully engaged in the preparatory process leading up to UNGASS 2016, both at the CND and at regional fora – such as the Southern Common Market-MERCOSUR, the Union of South American Nations-UNASUR, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States-CELAC and the Organization of American States-OAS.

We believe that UNGASS 2016 will contribute to improving our national policies, with a view to promoting a more effective implementation of the international drug control regime and of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009.

Brazil reiterates the need for the debate regarding the UNGASS 2016 to be open, pragmatic and inclusive, taking into account the legal framework of the three international drug control conventions. These instruments remain valid. They are flexible enough to accommodate different national perspectives in the formulation and implementation of integrated policies to address the world drug problem, incorporating at the same time both measures to fight supply and strategies to reduce demand and provide treatment and care to drug users.

In our preparations and discussions for UNGASS 2016, Brazil is open to an inclusive debate on possible new approaches to improve our drug policies. At the same time, my Government would like to emphasize that this discussion should not be understood as a request to, or an interest in, reviewing the current international legal framework to address the world drug problem, but rather as a natural acknowledgement of the need to continuously consider possible new science-based strategies that can improve current policies.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Last, but not the least, we would like to highlight our serious concern regarding the recent increase in executions in countries that adopt the death penalty for drug-related crimes. While we understand the priority attached to adequately combating and punishing crime, my country believes that no crime warrants the application of the death penalty. We respectfully urge all countries that still enforce the death penalty to adopt an immediate moratorium, a step that would further reaffirm our common commitment to the values and principles of the Human Rights Universal Declaration. My Government believes, furthermore, that the death penalty is not an appropriate instrument for public security policies, since there is no empirical evidence establishing a causality link between the death penalty and effective crime control.

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