

3 December 2018

English only

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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Reconvened sixty-first session**

Vienna, 5–7 December 2018

Agenda item 11\*\*

**Preparation for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019****Outline for the way beyond 2019 by H.E. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, Chairperson of the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs\*\*\*****2019: Accelerating collective efforts to address and counter the World Drug Problem based on common and shared responsibility**

In resolution 60/1 entitled “Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019”, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), “decides to convene a ministerial segment open to all States Members of the United Nations and interested stakeholders, to be held during its sixty-second session, in Vienna in 2019, which is to last two days in addition to the five days scheduled for the regular session of the Commission, held in the first half of the year, to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date”, and “decides that the preparations for the ministerial segment of its sixty-second session, to be held in 2019, will be continued during its sixty-first session, to be held in 2018, including at its intersessional meetings”.

In resolution 61/10 entitled “Preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019”, the CND “resolves that an outline for the way beyond 2019 will be presented by the Chair to the Commission at its reconvened sixty-first session for further consideration, including at its intersessional meetings prior to the sixty-second session, in the light of the preparations for the ministerial segment”.

Fulfilling the mandate given to me by the Commission, I am presenting this outline as my contribution as Chair of the 61<sup>st</sup> session to the preparation process of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the CND including its ministerial segment, to be held in March 2019.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 5 December 2018.

\*\* [E/CN.7/2018/1/Add.1](#).

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**Preamble**

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated in the World Drug Report 2018 “illustrates the unprecedented magnitude and complexity of the global drug markets. The adverse health consequences caused by drug use remain significant, drug-related deaths are on the rise and there are ongoing, concentrated opioid epidemics”. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) warns in its Annual Report of 2017 that “each year the complexity of the world drug situation increases”.

2. In undertaking efforts to address and counter the world drug problem, which demand an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach, States are committed to ensuring that all their policies and programs are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

3. States are parties to international legally binding instruments for addressing and countering the persistent, evolving and new patterns, trends and challenges of the world drug problem: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system. This framework allows for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

4. This past decade States adopted a set of political commitments which are complimentary and mutually reinforcing: the “Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”, the “Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem” and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

5. For “addressing all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs”,<sup>1</sup> States rely on the CND as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility, and on the role of UNODC for “coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities”.<sup>2</sup> They are supported by the INCB and the World Health Organization (WHO), stemming from their treaty-mandated roles, as well as from other United Nations entities and stakeholders, such as international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, the scientific community and academia.

6. Efforts to effectively address and counter the world drug problem are complimentary and mutually reinforcing to the efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Taking stock of progress, trends, gaps and challenges over the past decade**

1. States have at their disposal the Biennial Reports of the Executive Director of UNODC and other relevant reports of the Office, the World Drug Reports, the Annual

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<sup>1</sup> ECOSOC resolution 9/1 and 1999/30.

<sup>2</sup> CND resolution 46/8.

Reports of INCB, and information provided by other relevant sources, including other UN entities such as WHO, UNWomen and UNICEF, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the scientific community, academia and civil society, among others.

2. As part of its workplan,<sup>3</sup> interactive debates held during the intersessional period of the 61st CND allowed Member States to delve into matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, with the invaluable contribution of other stakeholders.

3. In March 2019, Ministers will: analyze existing and emerging patterns, trends, gaps and challenges; take stock of progress made in achieving our commitments, goals and targets over the past decade and, look for ways to accelerate their implementation.

**The road ahead: fostering our national efforts and strengthening international cooperation on the basis of common and shared responsibility to accelerate the implementation of our commitments for addressing and countering the world drug problem**

1. Expectations are great and so is the need for the international community to focus on what can be achieved to effectively address evolving and emerging patterns, trends and challenges in a comprehensive and balanced manner, guided by its principles and goals and bearing in mind that different realities require different responses. Adequate resources need to be mobilized to support national efforts.

2. States should enhance efforts, on the principle of common and shared responsibility, for implementing the commitments contained in the three policy documents adopted during the past decade. That task requires identifying which of those have been fulfilled, as well as ways to assess progress on the implementation of those who so far have not.

3. The CND should foster regional and international cooperation, benefiting from inter-agency coordination and from the efforts and experience of other stakeholders, such as international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, private sector, scientific community and academia.

4. For assessing progress on the implementation of the three policy documents, including of paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration of 2009 and the operational recommendations set out in UNGASS 2016, the CND should expeditiously look, with the necessary technical advice, on how to improve data collection and information gathering capabilities, including by adapting the UNODC Annual Report Questionnaires to reflect on all policy documents as part of a single-track approach. Technical assistance from UNODC and other partner's to requesting States is fundamental. A timeframe of two years has even been suggested for these efforts.

5. The CND should consider the possibility of setting a new timeline for revising progress on the implementation of all the commitments. While various possibilities have been advanced, a ten-year timeframe with a mid-term review seems to be cherished.

6. The CND has to continue addressing in depth all matters pertaining drugs, with the support of UNODC and other relevant actors.

7. The Reports of UNODC, the World Drug Reports and the Annual Reports of INCB constitute invaluable tools for States to continue their efforts to address and counter the world drug problem beyond 2019, bearing in mind the contribution of those efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

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<sup>3</sup> CND Workplan Autumn 2018.pdf.

### **Preparation process for the 62nd session of the CND, including its Ministerial Segment**

- As part of the preparation process, this outline was presented at the Reconvened session of the Commission for further consideration, in accordance with resolution 61/10. The reference document could be a helpful tool.
- Negotiations have to be launched as soon as feasible for preparing the draft of the document that will emanate from the ministerial segment. That document needs to be drafted with a language reflecting that it will be adopted by Ministers and high-ranking officials.
- The document should include, among other issues: the existing legal and political framework; an assessment of the world drug situation, including an evaluation of the progress made in implementing the commitments contained in the three policy documents and reflecting existing and emerging patterns, trends and challenges, and a pledge by States to enhance efforts to implement the abovementioned commitments.
- In preparing that document, due consideration should be given to the following issues, based on the existing carefully crafted agreements and understandings:
  - all policies and programs have to be addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
  - efforts have to be integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and undertaken with a comprehensive approach;
  - the international legally binding instruments: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;
  - the legal framework allows for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law;
  - different realities require different responses;
  - all the commitments contained in the three policy documents are complimentary and mutually reinforcing;
  - the roles of CND, UNODC, INCB and WHO;
  - the importance of interagency cooperation and the contributions of the other stakeholders: international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, the scientific community and academia;
  - the importance of international cooperation and the need to mobilize adequate resources, intensify technical assistance and support capacity-building efforts;
  - the contribution of the efforts to address and counter the world drug for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and
  - a new timeline for assessing progress in fulfilling the commitments.
- The preparation process of the 62nd session should also contemplate further briefings, with the proper technical advice, and consultations on the nature of the commitments and on how to improve data collection and information gathering capabilities, including by adapting the UNODC Annual Report

Questionnaires to reflect all policy documents as part of a single-track approach, so the Commission can expeditiously take action on measures that will allow to assess progress on the enhanced efforts to implement the commitments.

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