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Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-second session**

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment**Background documentation for the Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment: ****

- (a) **Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments¹ made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges**
- (b) **Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility**

1. Pursuant to its resolution 61/10, the CND will hold two interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables, to be conducted in parallel with the general debate during the ministerial segment of its sixty-second session. At its reconvened session in December 2018, the CND, in its decision 61/13, decided on the themes of the round table discussions.

* E/CN.7/2019/1.

** This document has not been edited.

¹ Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; 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”.



2. This non-paper is a substantive contribution by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to these interactive round table discussions. More information on the format of the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables, is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the substantive organization of the ministerial segment of the CND at its 62nd session, in 2019 ([E/CN.7/2019/10](#)).



Roundtable I

Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments² made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges

Introduction

While tangible progress has been achieved, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, which demand an urgent response. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States took stock of the implementation made over the past decade to jointly address and counter the world drug problem bearing in mind the biennial reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on progress made by Member States with the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the annual World Drug Reports, the annual reports of the International Narcotics Control Board, and highlighting the experiences, lessons learnt, and good practices in the implementation of the joint commitments shared by Member States and other stakeholders during its annual sessions as well as the thematic sessions held during the 60th and 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem was adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009 and subsequently by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182. In the Political Declaration it is recognized that the global drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction.

As to the Plan of Action, it is a comprehensive catalogue of concrete measures to address the world drug problem, focussing on: 1) Demand reduction and related measures; 2) Supply reduction and related measures; 3) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

The Political Declaration, in its operative paragraph 36 set 2019 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably : (a) the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant; (b) the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and drug-related

² 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”.

health and social risks; (c) the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs; (d) the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors; (e) money laundering related to illicit drugs.

In operative paragraph 40, the Political Declaration decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session in 2014 should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and recommended that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem.

In its resolution 67/193 the General Assembly decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session; it also decided that the special session of the General Assembly would review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

At its 57th session in 2014, the Commission conducted the requested mid-term review and adopted a Joint Ministerial Statement, which identified achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

In its resolution 69/200 the General Assembly stressed the importance of the special session on the world drug problem as a milestone on the way to 2019, the target date in the Political Declaration for the review of implementation, and recognized that the special session constituted an opportunity to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/181 to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

The UNGASS outcome document, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", which was adopted by the General Assembly at the opening of the special session on 16 April 2016, , consists of a comprehensive set of over 100 operational recommendations in seven thematic chapters covering : demand reduction and related measures; ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes; supply reduction and related measures; cross-cutting issues such as drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances.

In the document, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to implementing effectively the provisions set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, mindful of the targets and goals set therein, as well as to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the high-level review in March 2014.

They also resolved to take the necessary steps to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations. The Commission started a comprehensive and inclusive

UNGASS follow-up, covering all 7 chapters through a series of thematic discussions at intersessional meetings focused on sharing specific experiences, lessons learnt and information on concrete activities that can help to translate into action the operational recommendations in the UNGASS outcome document.

2009 to 2019 – Taking stock of the implementation of OP 36

The Joint Ministerial Statement, adopted at the high-level mid-term review in March 2014, noted that several Member States in different parts of the world had achieved tangible and measurable progress in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and recognized that many of the challenges of the global drug problem persisted and that new challenges had emerged in some parts of the world.

It also acknowledged that Member States had achieved progress with regard to improved understanding of the problem, the elaboration and implementation of national strategies to tackle the problem in an increasing number of countries, capacity-building initiatives for national competent authorities, the review and updating of legal frameworks, the creation and strengthening of capacities within law enforcement and health institutions, and improved mechanisms for international cooperation.

While acknowledging the progress made, the Joint Ministerial Statement also noted that some continuing and emerging challenges of the world drug problem may hinder efforts to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and called upon all Member States and relevant stakeholders to further strengthen their practical implementation. Among the challenges, the Joint Ministerial Declaration recognized the increasingly close ties between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, the new and growing challenge posed by new psychoactive substances, shifting trafficking routes and new drug trafficking trends, specific drug-related health challenges faced by vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, vulnerable youth and women.

Further to the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action the Commission requested the Executive Director to prepare and submit to the Commission biennially, on the basis of the responses provided by Member States to the annual report questionnaire (ARQ), a single report on action taken to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. The first three biennial reports were prepared in 2012, 2014 and 2016. The last of such reports, prepared in 2018 (document E/CN.7/2018/6) summarized and compared information provided across all reporting cycles on the action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the areas of drug demand and supply reduction, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

Based on that analysis, the report contained in document E/CN.7/2018/6 recommended, *inter alia*, that Member States : continue to address the various aspects of the drug problem through intersectoral interventions at all levels to ensure an approach that is integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, comprehensive and based on scientific evidence; consider reviewing their current drug control policies and frameworks to reflect the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of UNGASS 2016, as well as the relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); increase the coverage and quality of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services for people with drug use disorders; scale up action to ensure access to controlled substances for medical purposes, while preventing diversion and abuse; review their national strategies for domestic supply reduction activities; enhance the efficiency of law enforcement cooperation mechanisms and judicial cooperation; design and implement alternative development programmes in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development to ensure

that both a reduction in illicit crop cultivation and an improvement in social and economic conditions in targeted areas are achieved; acknowledge and address the increasing linkages between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration Member States once more acknowledged that tangible progress has been achieved in the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade, in addressing and countering the world drug problem including with regard to an improved understanding of the problem; the development, elaboration and implementation of national strategies, enhanced sharing of information, as well as enhanced capacity of national competent authorities.

They also noted with concern persistent and emerging challenges related to the world drug problem, including the following : that both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying; that the abuse, as well as the illicit cultivation and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors have reached record levels, and that the illicit demand for and domestic diversion in precursor chemicals is on the rise; that increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, are being observed; that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low, that the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many parts of the world; that drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of need, and deaths related to drug use have increased; and that the rate of transmission of HIV, HCV and other blood borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drugs, in some countries, remains high; that the adverse health consequences and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels; synthetic opioids, and the non-medical use of prescription drugs, present increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as with scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including in scheduling of substances; that the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing; and that the geographical coverage and availability of reliable data on the various aspects on the world drug problem requires improvement; and that responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations, represent a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Challenges to measure progress – data collection

The global illicit supply of opiates derives predominantly from illicit opium cultivation in a small number of countries and also the cultivation of coca bush is restricted to a handful of countries. While fairly well-developed methodologies exist to monitor coca bush and opium poppy cultivation through surveys relying extensively on remote sensing imagery in combination with overflights/field visits, the conversion of cultivated areas to quantities of drugs produced remains a challenge.

Cannabis cultivation affects virtually all countries worldwide but very few countries have information and/or report on the extent of cultivation. Indoor cultivation of cannabis is increasingly important, but is very hard to measure. Some governments have adopted techniques to detect indoor cultivation, but these do not yet have a global outreach.

Synthetic drugs, unlike plant-based drugs, are not geographically constrained in and can be manufactured practically anywhere. The number of synthetic drugs available on drug markets has never been larger. This complicates their monitoring which requires specific expertise.

Producing a comprehensive picture of the global extent of use of different drugs remains a challenge as very few countries conduct regular population-based surveys on drug use or have other reliable and robust quantitative measures to estimate the extent of drug use.

Information on health consequences of drug use is reported mainly based on administrative data which often depend on the availability of drug services and the existence of drug monitoring or information systems through which information, that is based on international standards and comparable, is routinely collected, analysed and reported. There is a general lack of capacity and availability of resources in many low- and middle-income countries in this regard. This affects for instance the production of the indicator identified to globally monitor Sustainable Development Goal target 3.5 “coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and after care services) for substance use disorders”.

A large share of crime proceeds from drug trafficking is laundered to enter the legal economy or to protect criminals’ assets. Several challenges exist to produce data and research on money laundering and illicit financial flows connected with drug trafficking, given the hidden and complex nature of these phenomena. While in some cases information is available to estimate the income from drug markets, main challenges remain to determine the share of crime proceeds that is laundered and/or transferred abroad and the routes and mechanisms used.

The provision of statistical data, estimates and assessments as required by the international drug control treaties is done through the UNODC Annual Reporting Questionnaire. While there has been significant progress in the number of Member States submitting the questionnaire (from 100 in 2010 to 118 in 2018), data for over 40 percent of Member States is not available every year, with a particularly low return in Africa (though improving) and Oceania. Nevertheless, the questionnaires submitted represent about three quarters of the global population.

Even within those Member States that report information through the ARQ, certain thematic areas present better response rate than others. In the area of drug demand, while the prevalence of drug use is a crucial indicator to monitor the demand for drugs, several regions present incomplete or outdated information, especially for drugs such as opiates and opioids, which often require complex methods for prevalence estimation at the national level. In the area of drug supply, while seizures are reported by a large proportion of responding countries, other relevant market indicators, such as price and purity, present a limited quality and coverage of data.

Many countries lack the capacity, as well as the financial resources, to produce good quality drug information. The paucity of official data, and the technical and specialized aspects of the production of drug data, contribute to a scenario where data on specific drug situations may only be provided by non-official sources. In addition, as drug data need to be collated from multiple agencies, lack of national coordination can seriously affect the quality of national data.

There are several data gaps in terms of the current data collection. In particular, no specific information is being collected on the use of the internet for drug-related activities and the intersection between drugs, violence, organized crime, illicit financial flows (SDG 16.4), corruption and the financing of terrorism among others. Understanding the drug problem requires also knowledge on its economic impact in terms of the illegal economy generated by drug production as well as the social costs borne by society as a result of the drug problem.

At the same time, it is operationally challenging for countries to report qualitative information on New Psychoactive Substances and precursors, while current data on gender disaggregation of certain indicators and on vulnerable members of society present insufficient coverage. There is a need for more systematic data linking socio-economic factors and drug use.

The rapid emergence and dynamics of a wide range of chemically and pharmacologically diverse synthetic substances on illicit drug markets makes it crucial to establish early warning systems which

allow timely identification of potential threats and an increased preparedness of countries to respond to such threats. The challenge of monitoring progress consists in understanding whether the current decline in the number of newly emerging substances goes along with the emergence of more harmful and potentially deadly substances. The growing integration of drug markets through the sale of NPS, sold as, or in a mixture with traditional drugs further complicates the collection and interpretation of data.

A dedicated joint effort by UNODC and Member States is needed, to ensure that national monitoring systems capture the different facets of the world drug problem in a reliable, comparable and objective manner that allows their analysis for the purpose of evidence-based policy formulation.

Questions for discussion

Despite progress made, the world drug problem continues to pose a challenge to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity.

- **What are the main gaps and challenges to implementing a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem?**
- **What is the main progress made in the implementation of the joint commitments made over the past decade?**
- **What are the existing and emerging trends observed over the past decade?**
- **How can Member States ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis, and how can the geographical coverage and national data collection capacity be enhanced?**
- **In particular how can Member States bridge the gap between political and financial commitment to enhance technical assistance and capacity building - allocating necessary resources to addressing all aspects of the world drug problem?**



Roundtable II

Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility;

Introduction

While tangible progress has been achieved, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, which demand an urgent response. With the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to respond by accelerating the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade. Taking stock of the progress made since 2009, Member States decided to accelerate, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set therein.

Bearing in mind the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, the international community is to accelerate their implementation, leaving no one behind, enhancing cooperation, increasing the provision of technical assistance and capability building, and ensuring balanced, inclusive and scientific evidence-based approaches.

Ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind

With the health, safety, and well-being of humanity at the centre of all efforts, leaving no one affected by the world drug problem behind requires implementing effective scientific evidence-based strategies centred on and tailored to the needs of individuals, families and communities as part of comprehensive and balanced national drug policies, on a non-discriminatory basis.

Already in 2009, at the time of the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States noted, inter alia, that vulnerabilities undermining human development, such as poverty and social marginalization, should be considered by States in their drug demand reduction interventions. In the 2009 Political Declaration, Member States highlighted that interventions too often targeted the general population at large with a single standard approach and did not provide specialized programmes tailored to vulnerable members of society with specific needs. In its efforts to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind, the Commission has emphasized

the importance of responding to the specific needs of children, adolescents, vulnerable youth, women, including pregnant women, people with medical and psychiatric co-morbidities, ethnic minorities and socially marginalized individuals, thereby recognizing the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes. Also, in the UNGASS outcome document, Member States devoted an entire chapter to operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues; drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities.

The Commission, in pursuing a people-centred approach to addressing the drug problem, has over the past decade continuously stressed the need to ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes and has also underlined the need to provide specialized programmes tailored to vulnerable members of society with specific needs. Leaving no one affected by the world drug problem behind will continue to be a focus of the Commission's work beyond 2019, thereby also contributing to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cooperation and Inclusiveness

Enhancing the cooperation at the national level among relevant domestic authorities, including in the health, education, justice and law enforcement sectors; the implementation of bilateral and regional initiatives; as well as the cooperation at the international level, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, are all crucial in accelerating the practical implementation of joint commitments.

Looking at the development and implementation of prevention programmes and drug-related health and social treatment services, the strengthened exchange of information and drug-related intelligence among law enforcement and border control agencies, and the promotion of coordinated operations, it becomes evident that the complexity of the world drug problem requires enhanced cooperation among all relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. At the regional level, the Commission's subsidiary bodies, the Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) and the Subcommission, provide important opportunities for regional cooperation, addressing specific challenges in the region, and bringing practical recommendations to the attention of the Commission.

The importance of non-State actors, including UN entities, regional and international organizations, civil society, the scientific community and academia, has been recognized in the 2009, 2014 and 2016 documents. With a view to implementing inclusive, people-centred and scientific evidence-based drug policies and programmes, all relevant stakeholders need to bring their comparative advantages to the table, including the knowledge and understanding of those working on the ground.

A call for increased cooperation has in the last years been directed at the United Nations system entities and specialized agencies, encouraging UNODC to further increase its cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes. In leading a comprehensive United Nations system-wide strategic coordination, UNODC will continue to enhance beyond 2019 its coordination and cooperation at all levels, making best use of the expertise and specialization of the UN system partners in supporting Member States with the practical implementation of the policy documents.

The Commission's intersessional period and thematic sessions, initiated as a tool to follow-up on UNGASS implementation, provide a key opportunity for those interested stakeholders to share good practices and lessons learnt. In its capacity as Secretariat to the CND, UNODC facilitates the thematic sessions, including through broadcasting the discussions live, as well as working to retain and collect, and make available to the broader public the information shared during those meetings.

In the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission is also working on enhancing its collaboration with other United Nations intergovernmental bodies, seeking to strengthen horizontal cooperation with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, expanding interaction and the active exchange of views on issues of common interest.

Each actor – at the national, regional and international level – has its specific mandates and field of expertise. The Commission has committed to continue to foster broad, transparent and inclusive discussions within the CND also beyond 2019, bringing together the different views and opinions on the various aspects of the world drug problem.

Technical Assistance and Resource Mobilization

Resources to implement the balanced, integrated scientific evidence-based policies is a challenge at the national, regional and international level. Mobilizing adequate resources at the national level and enhancing the capacity of domestic authorities and providing enhanced assistance to requesting Member States have been identified as core elements for accelerating the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade.

In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, with Member States reviewing the implementation of the commitments made at the 1998 UNGASS, Member States committed to pursue a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to supply and demand reduction, devoting more effort to the realization of demand reduction, resources and international cooperation in addressing drug abuse as a health and social issue, while upholding the law and its enforcement. During the 2014 high-level review on progress made in the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States acknowledged that appropriate policies and measures aimed at more efficient use of limited resources were necessary to effectively address the world drug problem.

The building of local capacity, the development and strengthening of institutional capacity, the strengthening of cross border, sub regional and regional technical assistance and cooperation, and the need for adequate resources and equipment were already highlighted as priorities in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. This plea to enhance the capacities of countries, upon their request, can also be found in the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement as well as throughout the seven thematic chapters of the UNGASS outcome document, underscoring the need to establish and further improve national drug control strategies and measures; to promote more targeted capacity-building initiatives based on scientific evidence for competent national authorities; to review and update legal frameworks, taking into account applicable international human rights obligations; to improve existing mechanisms for international cooperation; and to foster the development of national monitoring systems and statistics to elaborate proper data collection and analysis that allow for the identification of current trends, institutional capacities and the effects of drug control measures.

As leading UN entity in drug-related matters, UNODC provides a wide range of tailored technical assistance activities to countries. The Office provides legislative advice and legal drafting support, training and capacity-building activities, assistance in the development of national policies and strategies, and has issued a wide array of operational tools, guides and practical resources for policymakers, legislators, non-governmental organizations and practitioners who work in areas covered by the UNODC mandate.

Implementing the commitment to provide enhanced technical assistance beyond 2019 requires adequate and stable financial resources at all levels, including for UNODC to be able to fulfil its mandate and provide, upon request, targeted technical assistance and capacity building on all the commitments made over the past decade.

Data Collection

The importance of global data collection stems from the three international drug control conventions, by which parties are required to annually submit drug-related data to the United Nations. This is done through the UNODC annual reporting questionnaire. The provision of statistical data, estimates and assessments, as required by the international drug control treaties and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is done through the UNODC annual reporting questionnaire, are often late, incomplete or delayed.

The availability of high-quality data on drugs is key to understanding the drug situation and is a cornerstone of evidence-based policymaking and monitoring. The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action called for an integrated and comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis and the provision of technical assistance to those countries where capacity is less developed. In the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, the development of national monitoring systems and statistics to elaborate proper data collection and analysis that allow for the identification of current trends, institutional capacities and the effects of drug control measures, was considered both a challenge and priority for action. In the UNGASS 2016 outcome document Member States recognized that targeted interventions that are based on the collection and analysis of data, including age- and gender related data, can be particularly effective in meeting the specific needs of drug-affected populations and communities and they committed to enhance the quality and consistency of reported data

Member States in its resolution 60/1 of March, invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities to strengthen and streamline its existing data-collection and analysis tools. The resolution further underlined the need to improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire and called on UNODC to report to the Commission on possible ways to enhance these. In January 2018 UNODC organized a first expert consultation to review statistical methodology, tools and capacity development activities to improve the capacity of countries to collect and report data on drugs, as well as to discuss the quality of data currently collected through the ARQ and possible ways for improvement. Recognizing the challenge of geographical coverage and national capacities to collect reliable and objective data, as well as the need for increased technical assistance and capacity building in this field, the expert consultation underscored the need to inter alia build and strengthen national systems for monitoring the drug problem, including information systems and the institutional and technical infrastructure to facilitate the collection, consolidation and analysis of data related to drugs.

For beyond 2019, Member States have committed to work on an improved and streamlined annual reporting questionnaire for consideration at the 63rd session of the Commission, and reflect on possibilities to review other existing drug control data collection and analysis tools as deemed necessary to reflect and assess progress made in the implementation of all commitments, included in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action 2009, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the UNGASS 2016 outcome document.. In that regards, Member States will take a single-track approach, devoting a single standing agenda item at each regular session of the Commission on the implementation of all commitments, ensure that collection of reliable and comparable data, through the strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire, reflects all commitments.

Questions for discussion

- **How can Member States fulfil the commitment to accelerate the implementation of all commitments made over the past decade?**
- **How can Member States, through the Commission, reach out to all relevant stakeholders to ensure the implementation of all commitments, thereby contributing to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**
- **How can Member States enhance the cooperation of relevant domestic authorities to foster the implementation of joint commitments at the national level? How can Member States foster contributions of national experts in the CND?**
- **How can Member States enhance regional cooperation and what role can the subsidiary bodies of the CND play in accelerating the implementation of all commitments beyond 2019?**
- **What concrete steps can be taken to enhance the involvement of other UN entities, functional commissions, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and in efforts generally to address the world drug problem?**
- **How can Member States bridge the gap between political and financial commitment to enhanced technical assistance and capacity building – allocating necessary resources to addressing all aspects of the world drug problem?**
- **How can Member States ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis, and how can the geographical coverage and national data collection capacity be enhanced?**