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

Vienna, 2–6 March 2020

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the ministerial declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem****Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration\*\****Summary*

The bi-annual report of the Executive Director on Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2020/6), that the Commission will have before it during the sixty-third session, follows the format used in the past and focuses on the efforts undertaken to fully implement the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, entitled “*Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem*”, Member States committed to ensuring that the Commission-led follow-up on the implementation of all commitments to address and counter the world drug problem made since 2009 was done in a single track. The present Note by the Secretariat aims to complement the Report of the Executive Director to reflect the comprehensive efforts undertaken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in particular since the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, thereby providing an overview of measures taken to enhance the practical implementation of all political commitments reflected in the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Declaration and the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

The conference room paper is to be read in conjunction with the bi-annual report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2020/6), the Note by the Secretariat on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, further to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (E/CN.7/2020/12), and the Chair’s summary by H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhiet (Sudan), Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission on

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\* E/CN.7/2020/1.

\*\* This document has not been edited.



Narcotic Drugs, on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (16–18 October 2019) (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.1), which has been submitted to the Commission at its sixty-third session in the form of a conference room paper.

## I. Background

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-second session in 2009, reviewed the progress made since the 1998 Special Session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and adopted a new framework – the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In the Plan of Action, structured in three parts: (a) demand reduction and related measures; (b) supply reduction and related measures; and (c) countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation, Member States adopted measures to enhance international cooperation, identified problems and areas requiring further action, as well as set goals and targets to address the world drug problem. In addition, Member States decided that the Commission was to conduct at its fifty-seventh session in 2014 a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action and recommended that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem.

2. In line with the decision contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Commission conducted at its fifty-seventh session a high-level review and adopted the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, which identifies achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

3. The General Assembly decided in December 2012, in its resolution [67/193](#), to hold a Special Session on the World Drug Problem in early 2016, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 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. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [69/200](#) and [69/201](#), the CND was tasked to lead an open-ended and inclusive preparatory process for the Special Session, held in April 2016, at which occasion the Assembly unanimously adopted the outcome document “*Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem*”, containing operational recommendations in seven thematic chapters: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy. Immediately following the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, the Commission initiated an intensive follow-up process to support the practical implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the seven chapters (*see Chapter III for more information*).

4. In March 2019, ten years after the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Ministers and government representatives met in Vienna to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in light of the 2019 target date set in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to enhance efforts beyond 2019. At the opening of the Ministerial Segment, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on “*Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and*

*International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem*". In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to ensuring that the Commission-led follow-up on the implementation of all commitments to address and counter the world drug problem made since 2009 was done in a single track, which entailed (a) devoting a single standing agenda item at each regular session of the Commission to the implementation of all commitments; (b) ensuring that collection of reliable and comparable data, through a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire reflected all commitments; and (c) requesting the Executive Director of UNODC to adapt the existing biennial report, transforming it into a single report, to be prepared on a biennial basis, on the basis of the responses provided by Member States to a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire on progress made to implement all commitments at the national, regional and international levels, the first of which reports to be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its 65th session, in 2022.

## II. The 2019 Ministerial Declaration

5. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States, while acknowledging that tangible progress had been achieved over the past decade, noted with concern the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem and committed to accelerating, 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 out therein. The 2019 Ministerial Declaration, with the overall commitment to accelerate the implementation of the existing policies, has three parts: (a) the preambular part, (b) the stock taking part; and (c) the way forward. The declaration concludes with the resolve to review in the Commission in 2029 the progress in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with a mid-term review in 2024.

### (a) Stocktaking part

6. In the stocktaking part of the declaration, Member States identified a number of challenges to the effective implementation of the international commitments. While not an exhaustive list, the declaration highlights a number of key challenges for the international community to address, including (a) that both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying; (b) that the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture 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 the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise; (c) 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 observed; (d) that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low; (e) 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; (f) that drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased; (g) that the rate of transmission of HIV, the hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drug use in some countries, remains high; (h) that the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels; (j) that synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances; (k) that the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing; (l) that

the geographical coverage and availability of reliable data on the various aspects on the world drug problem requires improvement; and (m) that responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

7. Based on the challenges identified in the declaration, the Commission, in its follow-up process, adopted in June 2019 a multi-year workplan to discuss, through annual thematic sessions, how these challenges can be addressed through effectively implementing the provisions contained in the 2016, 2014 and 2009 documents (*see Chapter III for more information*).

**(b) Way forward**

8. In the way forward part of the declaration, Member States committed to focus beyond 2019 on accelerating the practical implementation of the policy commitments made over the past decade, and to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem was left behind, through increased cooperation at all levels, the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem, and through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building.

9. In line with the intensive follow-up process which the CND had started immediately after the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document and which focused on the practical implementation of international drug policy commitments, Member States highlighted in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration their commitment to supporting the CND to continue fostering broad, transparent and inclusive discussions within the Commission.

*Improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019*

10. The three policy documents which Member States committed to implement, call each for the promotion of data collection, research and the sharing of information. In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States expressed concern about the lack of data, and the lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation by Governments, thereby highlighting the need for intensified international cooperation and support. At the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission, one year after the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in December 2010, Member States adopted a revised Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) to enable the monitoring of and the biennial reporting to the Commission on the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as for the reporting to the Commission mandated by the three international drug control conventions. The first reports resulting from this revised ARQ were considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fifth session in 2012.

11. In its resolution 60/1 of March 2017, the Commission invited the UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities to strengthen and streamline its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire. The UNODC convened the first Expert Working Group on Improving Drug Statistics and Strengthening of the ARQ from 29 to 31 January 2018.

12. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States further committed to further promote and improve the collection, analysis and sharing of quality and comparable data, with a view to strengthening national data-collection capacity to improve the response rate and expand the geographical and thematic reporting of related data in accordance with all commitments.

13. In the Declaration, the UNODC was requested, in close cooperation with Member States, to continue, in an inclusive manner, expert-level consultations on

strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire and to reflect on possibilities to review other existing tools for the collection and analysis of drug control data as deemed necessary to reflect and assess progress made in the implementation of all commitments contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and to submit an improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire for consideration at the sixty-third session of the Commission.

14. The second Expert Working Group on improving drug statistics and strengthening the Annual Report Questionnaire was convened from 28 to 30 August 2019. A pilot exercise on the new ARQ was conducted during October 2019 to assess availability of data/information and clarity of new annual report questionnaire questions. (*See Note by the Secretariat on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, further to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (E/CN.7/2020/12) for further information*)

15. It is also to be mentioned that in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States further requested the Executive Director of UNODC to adapt the existing biennial report, transforming it into a single report, to be prepared on a biennial basis on the basis of the responses provided by member States to the strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire on progress made to the implement all commitments at the national, regional and international level. The first of these reports should be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session in 2022.

### **III. Implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration**

16. With the decision of Member States to focus on the practical implementation of all international drug policy commitments made over the past decade, the Commission, supported by the Secretariat, has been working to support Member States with the implementation of these commitments.

#### **(a) CND Thematic Discussions**

17. A core part of the Commission-led follow-up process are the thematic discussions that are focused on the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. The annual thematic sessions were initiated after the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, transforming the CND into a forum for exchange of expertise and experience among all interested stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and international organizations, and civil society.

18. The first round of thematic discussions was held in October 2016, six months after the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, under the leadership of the Chair of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, H.E. Ambassador Vladimír Galuška (Czech Republic), facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida (Portugal), who was appointed as CND Facilitator for post UNGASS matters. The thematic discussions were structured according to the seven thematic chapters of the UNGASS outcome document, calling on stakeholders to share good practices, challenges and lessons learnt in their efforts to implement the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document. Additional two rounds of thematic discussions, focused on the UNGASS chapters and the preparations for 2019, were held in January 2017 and from September to November 2017, under the leadership of the Chair of the sixtieth session of the Commission, H.E. Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway), and facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Moitinho, the

CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters. Conference room papers<sup>1</sup> with remarks by the Facilitator, summarizing the deliberations of the thematic discussions on the UNGASS chapters, as well as a background paper<sup>2</sup> by the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Angell-Hansen, were brought to the attention of the Commission. The presentations made during the meetings as are available on the Commission's website.<sup>3</sup>

19. During its sixty-first session, in 2018, the Commission focused on its preparations for the 2019 Ministerial Segment, which was convened with a view to taking stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. Under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro-Massieu (Mexico), Chair of the sixty-first session of the Commission, the CND dedicated a total of eleven meeting days to thematic discussions in preparation for 2019, including (a) normative segments on the implementation of the three international drug control conventions; (b) thematic segments on the implementation of the international drug policy commitments; and (c) organizational segments to prepare for the 2019 Ministerial Segment. The conference room paper submitted by the Chair on the way beyond 2019,<sup>4</sup> as well as the presentations made during the meetings and short reports of the proceedings are available on the Commission's website.<sup>5</sup>

20. In line with the commitment made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to continue to foster broad, transparent and inclusive discussions, the CND, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet (Sudan), and facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Vivian Okeke (Nigeria), in here capacity as CND Facilitator for 2019 preparations, adopted on 24 June 2019 a multi-year workplan on the organization of inter-active thematic sessions, every autumn, in the period up to 2024. The Commission decided to focus the thematic discussions beyond 2019 on how to address the challenges identified in the stock taking part of the Ministerial Declaration, through the effective implementation of the provisions and recommendations contained in the three policy documents (2016, 2014, 2009).

21. The first autumn thematic session following the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration was held from 16 to 18 October 2019. The sessions started with introductory presentations by UNODC; followed by a panel discussion with five experts per panel to be nominated by the Regional Groups, experts from other relevant United Nations entities, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, as well as one expert nominated from civil society through the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. The panel discussion was followed by an interactive debate.

22. In line with the multi-year workplan, the Commission focused its discussions on how to address the following challenges: (a) both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying; (b) the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture 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 the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise, and (c) synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances. Each day of the meetings focused on one of the three challenges.

23. A Chair's summary of the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, held in October 2019, is available in the form of a conference room paper

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.7/2016/CRP.12, E/CN.7/2017/CRP.1 and E/CN.7/2018/CRP.1.

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.7/2017/CRP.9.

<sup>3</sup> [www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion](http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion).

<sup>4</sup> E/CN.7/2018/CRP.14.

<sup>5</sup> [www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion](http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion).

to the sixty-third session of the Commission,<sup>6</sup> and the presentations made during the meetings are available on the Commission's website.<sup>7</sup> In preparation for the thematic discussion, a background note, based on the findings of the 2019 World Drug Report and contributions by the UNODC substantive sections, was prepared by the Secretariat to the Commission.<sup>8</sup>

24. The next round of thematic discussions is scheduled to be held in autumn 2020, and will be focused on another set of challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, namely how to address the following challenges (a) drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased; that (b) the rate of transmission of HIV, the hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drug use in some countries, remains high; that (c) the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels; and that (d) 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. The multi-year workplan of the Commission is available on the Commission's website.<sup>9</sup>

25. Since the first round of CND thematic discussions on the UNGASS implementation in autumn 2016, around 400 Member States' interventions were made, and around 130 representatives of civil society addressed the Commission. In over 130 contributions, experts from various UN, international and regional partners, including UNODC, UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, Universal Postal Union (UPU), INCB, Interpol, Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Council of Europe, OSCE, the European Union, and the Organization of American States (OAS), contributed to the Commission's discussions.

26. In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna, the Commission has and will continue to enable remote participation, through the of its international meetings and thematic discussions, and the displaying of pre-recorded video-messages from interested stakeholders around the world, with a view to ensuring that also those that cannot participate in person are in a position to follow the deliberations and contribute to the work of the Commission. The Secretariat continues to explore new methods to further facilitate the remote participation in meetings of the Commission.

#### **(b) CND Subsidiary Bodies**

27. To further cooperation in drug law enforcement activities at the regional level, the Economic and Social Council established the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) as subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The regions covered include Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa. The meetings take place annually, biannually in the case of HONLEA Europe, and aim to identify salient policy and enforcement issues in their regions, they establish working groups to analyse the issues, and then bring their reports and recommendations to the attention of the Commission. The Subcommission was established in 1973 to serve as a consultative body that would provide the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with a regional perspective on dealing with illicit drug activity in the Near and Middle East.

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<sup>6</sup> E/CN.7/2020/CRP.1: Chair's summary by H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet (Sudan), Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (16–18 October 2019).

<sup>7</sup> [www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html](http://www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html).

<sup>8</sup> [www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/follow-up-process/Secretariat\\_Background\\_Note\\_Autumn\\_2019\\_2\\_October\\_2019.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/follow-up-process/Secretariat_Background_Note_Autumn_2019_2_October_2019.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> [www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html](http://www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html).



28. These practitioner meetings discuss the implementation and follow-up to the Commission's policy documents from their own perspective, provide the regional input to the Commission, and are key to ensuring the effective implementation of international drug policy at the national and regional levels.

29. Following the adoption of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document, in which a number of new and emerging challenges were identified, the Commission's regional practitioners' meetings now also devote time during their working groups on how the responding UNGASS operational recommendations can be most effectively implemented. Issues discussed include addressing the specific needs of women and children, new psychoactive substances, alternatives to conviction and punishment, or challenges related to the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

30. With the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and promote information sharing, in particular among judicial and law enforcement authorities.

31. In 2019, the five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the CND were held; (a) the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 2 to 5 July 2019; (b) the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Balacava, Mauritius from 16 to 20 September 2019; (c) the Fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 23 to 27 September 2019; (d) the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, from 7 to 11 October 2019; and (e) the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 22 to 25 October 2019.

32. The 2019 meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, adopted in 2019 operational recommendations covering the provisions of the three policy documents, for consideration by the Commission.

33. The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission are consolidated in a report by the Secretariat made available to the Commission for its consideration. (*For further information see: E/CN.7/2020/9 Report of the Secretariat on action by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs*)

### (c) CND Websites and Tools

34. Information sharing is key to delivering better, more efficient responses, facilitating decision-making and fostering innovation. With the wealth of information shared by the various stakeholders during the CND's regular sessions and intersessional meetings, in particular during the above-mentioned thematic discussions, a key pillar to enhance the implementation of international drug policy commitments, are tools and platforms to collect and share the good practices and contributions.

35. The Secretariat has developed a set of tools to support the Commission. In addition to the Commission's regular website [cnd.unodc.org](http://cnd.unodc.org), the Secretariat has created dedicated websites for the follow-up to the 2016 UNGASS, as well as, following the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in March, a website focused on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.<sup>10</sup> These websites provide detailed information on the preparatory processes and respective follow-up action taken by the Commission. Statements and presentations delivered during the thematic sessions and intersessional meetings of the Commission are also shared on these websites.

<sup>10</sup> [www.unodc.org/hlr/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/hlr/index.html).

36. In 2017, the Secretariat was further requested to develop a “good practice portal” that would function as a platform for Member States to share good practices in the practical implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. In line with Member States’ commitment to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments made over the past decade, the Secretariat has been encouraging governments – also in the follow-up process to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration – to use the good practice portal ([www.postungass2016.org](http://www.postungass2016.org)) to share information on national implementation efforts as well as their national drug policy/strategy and plans of action.<sup>11</sup> A note verbal was sent out to Member States early 2020.

37. The Commission further uses social media to reach out to interested stakeholders, thereby providing up-to date information on meetings, documentation, links to webcasts and contributions posted on the Commissions websites (Twitter: @CND\_tweets; @UNGASS2016).

**(d) National Implementation Workshops**

38. As part of the broader initiative to strengthen the practical implementation of the international drug policy commitments at the global, regional and national levels, the Secretariat to the Commission also offers national implementation workshops for representatives of government institutions involved in drug-related matters, with a view to supporting the implementation of the policy commitments on the ground and to foster domestic coordination among various governmental institutions. The first national implementation workshops were offered by the Secretariat following the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. Focused on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters, national UNGASS 2016 implementation workshops were held between 2016 and 2018 in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan and Fiji.

39. The national implementation workshops aim to bring together all relevant national authorities involved in developing, implementing or monitoring national drug policy, they aim to provide a forum for the exchange of expertise and experience and for enhancing inter-agency cooperation, among representatives of relevant governmental actors, including from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice, Interior, Education, as well as other relevant authorities responsible for drug-related policies and programmes, such as judiciary, social services and police and authorities in charge of youth and gender.

40. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to addressing persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem through accelerating the implementation of the joint commitments, ensuring balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses at all levels. To foster the implementation at the national level, Member States committed to strengthening cooperation and coordination among national authorities, particularly in the health, education, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, and between governmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

41. Following the methodology and format developed for the UNGASS 2016 implementation workshops, national implementation workshops covering the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, were held in the course of 2019 in Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In addition, the Secretariat to the Commission organized national implementation workshops in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the

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<sup>11</sup> Note: At this moment information needs to be submitted in English, since there is no extrabudgetary funding available to translate contributions received in the other official languages. Subject to the availability of additional resources, we will be able to offer this in the future.

Organization of American States in Antigua and Barbuda and in St. Kitts and Nevis in August 2019.

42. The workshops provide detailed substantive information on the provisions of the relevant policy documents and an analysis of the recommendations contained in these documents. In group exercises participants jointly assess national action taken and identify gaps and future needs for technical assistance. The workshops aim to support officials participating in the training to develop the expertise needed to advance the practical implementation of all international drug policy commitments, as highlighted in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

43. Activities by the CND Secretariat in support of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments that are subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, including the implementation workshops or technical tools to facilitate communication with interested stakeholders, are being implemented with the contributions provided by the governments of Australia, Austria, Germany and the United States of America.

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