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

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem**Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem******I. International cooperation**

1. In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, whose title underscores the importance of international cooperation, Member States committed to increasing cooperation at the regional and international levels. In the Joint Ministerial Statement, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 2014 high-level review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States reiterated their strong commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. In the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016), Member States included a stand-alone chapter on strengthening international cooperation. The title of the outcome document, “*Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem*” acknowledges that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that needs to be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation.

2. In 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*”, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) by consensus at the opening of the Ministerial Segment of its 62nd session in March 2019, Member States 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.

* E/CN.7/2020/1.

** This document has not been edited.



3. In the Declaration, Member States committed to ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem was left behind by enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges through enhanced cooperation at all levels – national, regional and international.

4. Member States also reaffirmed the principal role of CND, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and encouraged contributions of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Commission. The call for enhanced cooperation was also addressed to the United Nations system, both in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and General Assembly resolution [74/178](#) “*International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem*”, encouraging UNODC to further increase 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 (*see chapter II for additional information*).

5. In line with Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the CND is conducting its work, including its follow-up to the implementation of the policy documents, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, inviting relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as relevant non-governmental organizations to its meetings and encouraging them to actively contribute to its work. In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna, communication tools are used by the CND to enable remote participation, including the webcast of international meetings and thematic discussions, and the displaying of pre-recorded video-messages from interested stakeholders around the world.

6. Cooperation also takes place among United Nations intergovernmental bodies (*see chapter III for additional information*). The Commission actively seeks to strengthen horizontal cooperation with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Through the organization of joint events on cross-cutting issues, CND proactively reaches out to the other functional commissions in order to expand ongoing collaboration, interaction and an active exchange on issues of common interest.

II. Inter-agency cooperation

7. Following a decision by the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General (EXCOM) dated 20 April 2017, UNODC was tasked by the Secretary-General with leading the coordination of relevant United Nations entities in assisting Member States with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. Entities involved include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

8. Through a network of focal points, established on the basis of the decision of the Executive Committee, UNODC maintained a close dialogue with the relevant United Nations partners and has been providing regular updates on the work of the Commission. UNODC also actively reaches out to United Nations entities to

contribute to the CND thematic discussions on the implementation of international drug policy, in the follow-up to the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document and following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. Experts from UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), participated along with national experts and representatives of other intergovernmental and international organizations as well as civil society organizations in CND thematic discussions.

9. A number of United Nations system-wide activities were initiated in response to that EXCOM decision, including the development of a matrix of UNGASS-related action at HQs and in the field and a joint calendar of events, providing a comprehensive overview of joint and individual activities undertaken in supporting Member States with the practical implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. In addition, UNODC worked closely with United Nations entities on a unified United Nations-wide messaging and on ways of integrating ongoing efforts into a system-wide strategy across the three pillars.

10. During the internal meeting of the Chief Executives Board in November 2018, principals of the United Nations agencies discussed how the system could most effectively support the implementation of international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration. At that meeting, principals adopted a United Nations Common Position, in which they committed to harnessing synergies and strengthening inter-agency cooperation, making best use of the expertise within the United Nations system, as well as to supporting each other's activities, within established mandates, and to delivering balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable support to Member States in implementing joint commitments.

11. With a view to ensuring coherent efforts to realize the commitments under the United Nations System Common Position and, in particular, coordinated data collection to promote scientific, evidence-based implementation of international commitments, a United Nations-system Coordination Task Team, led by UNODC, was created within the framework of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee. Through a network of appointed focal points, the Task Team worked in 2019 through face-to-face and web meetings. It prepared the conference room paper E/CN.7/2019/CRP.10 submitted by the Secretary-General to the 2019 Ministerial Segment entitled: "*What we have learned over the last ten years: A summary of knowledge acquired and produced by the UN system on drug-related matters*". During the second half of 2019, the Task Team briefed Member States on its work in Brussels, Vienna and Geneva.

12. In General Assembly resolution 74/178, Member States invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase efforts to pursue joint initiatives at the policy and programmatic levels with other relevant United Nations agencies and entities, within their existing mandates, as well as regional organizations, and to update and report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress, including on joint initiatives, at its upcoming sessions.

13. A number of concrete examples of joint efforts undertaken by United Nations entities and international partners, supporting Member States with the implementation of international drug policy commitments, are provided below:¹

Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

14. UNODC continued the dissemination of the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the successful piloting of evidence-based

¹ The examples are taken from the Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/74/178): <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/178>.

prevention programmes for families and schools in 12 countries, as well as the advocacy campaign for evidence-based prevention “Listen First”.

15. UNODC and WHO continued to support the Informal Scientific Network, including during the 62nd session of CND, with a representative of the Network presenting in plenary a statement addressing the impact of inequality on the prevalence and the tackling of drug use disorders. Moreover, UNODC promoted a health-centred approach to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation through a series of seminars involving 290 policymakers from 22 countries.

16. Through their joint global programme, UNODC and WHO continued to expand and improve drug treatment, care (including overdose prevention) and rehabilitation services, including special services for children, women, and pregnant women, in 27 countries reaching an estimated 34,000 patients. A new family-therapy model for adolescents specifically tailored to the needs of low- and middle-income countries was developed with the involvement of leading researchers and piloted in South-East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

17. UNODC, WHO and UNAIDS continued to provide advice on overall global policies and strategies related to the global response to HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs. UNODC continued the implementation of the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through the promotion of human rights, public health, justice and equality of access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons.

18. UNODC assisted in developing, adopting and implementing strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS related to drug use, particularly for people who inject drugs, in line with the WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users in 24 countries, and on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support policies and programmes in the criminal justice system in 34 countries.

19. UNODC developed a training package to facilitate the rolling out of the implementation guide for provision of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs; finalized an implementation guide on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use stimulant drugs; developed a training module on gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who use drugs; and prepared a technical guide on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in prisons in consultation with experts nominated by Member States and jointly with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN-Women, and UNAIDS.

20. UNODC advocated for the alignment of prison health sector plans with a comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment and care services and helped build the capacity of senior prison officials’ capacity on HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections and TB prevention, treatment and care, and supported, jointly with WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, delivery of HIV prevention and related health services in prisons in 13 countries.

Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

21. To ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, UNODC continued to work closely with WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). This work is also benefiting from partnerships with INCB, IAEA and civil society partners such as the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Human Rights Watch and the University of Indiana.

22. The UNODC-WHO-UICC Joint Global Program continued to provide technical guidance in Panama, Nigeria, Timor-Leste and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Work focused on three areas: (1) analysis of legislation and development of comprehensive national policies and regulations; (2) building the capacity of the existing and new health-care workforce to screen, assess and care for persons living

in pain; and (3) strengthening a regulatory system with a supply chain that is responsive to the needs of patients.

23. UNODC continued to be actively involved in the work of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The issues related to pain management for cancer patients, particularly cervical cancer, have been on the agenda of conference calls and regular meetings. During the 62nd CND, UNODC co-organized the special event: “Increasing access to controlled medicines – addressing the global disparity in pain relief” with the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Kenya, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the International Narcotics Control Board, the European Union, the Union for International Cancer Control, and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

24. UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy and the University of Essex jointly developed a set of international standards in the form of international guidelines on human rights and drug control, which were launched during a side event at the occasion of the 62nd CND.

25. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime (BENATOC), continued to support regional and interregional cooperation in the framework of the “networking the networks” initiative, thereby enhancing networking between existing regional and international law enforcement cooperation organizations, promoting the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting drug-related organized crime and related illicit financial flows.

26. Through the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP), UNODC continued to support Member States to establish Port Control Units (PCUs) and Air Cargo Control Units (ACCU) at seaports, dry ports, land borders, railways and airports. Training was provided to staff to profile and inspect cargo containers suspected of carrying illicit goods.

27. UNODC also continued implementation of the UNODC-WCO Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) to strengthen law enforcement capacities at international airports.

28. UNODC, DPKO, UNOWAS, DPA and INTERPOL continued activities in support of the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, and the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee (EMDCC) of ECOWAS member States and Mauritania held in Nigeria in April 2019.

29. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) contributed to the efforts of Central Asian States through monitoring the overall drug situation in the region, and through undertaking regular exchanges on related strategies and activities with UNODC, CARICC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Central Asian Drug Action Programme (CADAP) and other relevant partners. UNRCCA also liaised with the mini-Dublin Group to support the practical exchange of information.

30. In the Sahel region, the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, DPO, DPA, DDG (Danish Demining Group), and the G5 Sahel continued activities to strengthen national and regional capacities and cooperation to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, implemented in partnership with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the G5 Sahel.

31. UNODC and UN-HABITAT continued, through their joint programme “Evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Latin American and African cities” (Colombia, Mexico and South Africa) to promote stronger national cooperation in undertaking local Safety Audits to identify and prevent urban crime in cities.

32. UNODC started rolling out training based on the UNODC/WHO publication “Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System – Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment”, including through bringing together over 40 justice and health practitioners from Kenya to discuss non-custodial options to provide treatment and care at different stages of the criminal justice process. Participants included prosecutors, judges, probation officers, legal aid providers, representatives from the ministries of health and labour, drug use disorder treatment experts, county governments and civil society organizations.

Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

33. The Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and NPS. The UNODC early warning advisory on NPS continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including EMCDDA, WCO as well as WHO and its ECDD.

34. In March 2019, UNODC launched the United Nations toolkit on synthetic drugs, a joint effort of UNODC, WHO and INCB, offering information on key challenges presented by synthetic drugs, including prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, access to medicine, regulation, detection and interdiction. The resources are offered in an interactive way and include guidelines, technical information, training, eLearning courses and data.

35. UNODC, in collaboration with WHO, and with the involvement of many partners, including UNAIDS, EMCDDA, the African Union and OAS, continued to collaborate within the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Drug Epidemiology to review international data collection and standards in drug epidemiology and to develop common standards and synergies, including those for the monitoring of target 3.5 of SDG 3.

Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

36. To increase and demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions, UNODC has conducted baseline surveys and needs assessments for three UNODC and UNDP alternative development projects in Afghanistan, allowing for a statistically valid impact assessment of the projects.

III. Inter-commissions’ cooperation

37. In 2019, CND continued its efforts to enhance horizontal cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including through organizing joint events on cross-cutting issues.

38. In contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, CND also continues to submit annual substantive contributions, including on the 2020 theme “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council High-level Political Forum.

39. At the sixty-second session in March 2019, the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) addressed CND under the agenda item on contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The intervention highlighted cross-cutting issues, including the effects of scientific and technological changes on prevention and rehabilitation of drug users, as well as potential new risks and challenges related to trafficking.

40. At the occasion of the Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2019, a side event was organized on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The event, organized by UNODC and the government of Japan as host of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, provided a platform for subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, including CND, CCPCJ, CSW, to contribute to the preparations for the 2020 Congress, discussing how their respective bodies’ work contributes to advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.

41. A joint event was organized by the Vienna-based Commissions, CND and CCPCJ, at the occasion of the visit of the President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés in August 2019. The event, hosted by the Chairs of the Commissions, highlighted contributions of the Vienna-based Commissions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

42. Supporting the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, CND and CCPCJ organize at the sixty-third session of CND a joint high-level event, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The high-level event aims to raise awareness for the commitments made in 1995 in Beijing, in particular in relation to the work of the Commissions in Vienna and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, highlighting joint contributions to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a goal central to the work of the Vienna-based Commissions, who have in recent years considerably increased the attention devoted to the issue of gender equality through the adoption of a number of targeted resolutions and policy commitments. In addition to a dedicated website on contributions to SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, the Commissions have devoted special attention to the issue of gender mainstreaming, joining efforts to promote the use of gender-inclusive communication, including through the informal “Let’s Talk Gender” meetings.