

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO 64TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS****12 April 2021**

I am pleased to send greetings to the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

These conventions were adopted by the international community to address global health challenges through global coordination and rules. In that regard, I welcome the adoption today of a joint statement on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which urges Member States to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind.

This is in keeping with the spirit of both Conventions, which aim to protect the health and well-being of humankind by ensuring the availability (买得着) and accessibility (用得上) of drugs for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their misuse.

The Conventions have provided a flexible instrument in tackling new and evolving challenges, including the proliferation in recent years of more than 1,000 new psychoactive substances.

Since 2015, 60 of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent of these substances have been included in the schedules of the Conventions by the CND. These decisions by Member States were supported by the UN system delivering as one, and I would like to commend the joint work of WHO, the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC in this regard.

We must continue building on shared commitments to advance evidence-based and balanced responses to drugs, including to support the billions of people, mostly living in low- and middle-income countries, who have limited or no access to essential medicines.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown us how much the world needs solidarity, shared responsibility and international cooperation to improve health coverage, protect our societies and recover better. On these anniversaries and at this session of the CND, I urge you to contribute to these collective efforts.

I wish you successful and productive deliberations.