

United States of America Launch of the
2021 UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report
Friday, June 25, 2021

- The United States supports UNODC's World Drug Report (WDR) and the Research and Trends Analysis Section that produces it. The World Drug Report is a critical tool to spot new drug use and trafficking trends and helps us more effectively combat the world drug problem.
- The Report best assists Member States when it directs our attention to pressing issues that require collective Member State partnerships and international action.
- We welcome UNODC's findings on the necessity of international cooperation; whether through forging new partnerships with the private sector to remove advertisements for illicit substances on the internet and increase detection of diversion of precursor chemicals or enhancing communication between Member States to share best practices.
- As the Report highlights, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated changing trafficking dynamics, such as increased use of land or waterway routes and utilization of mail for delivering drugs to consumers. These findings will be invaluable as the United States continues to adapt to these new realities, including by bolstering the capacity of postal officials worldwide to detect illicit goods transiting through mail systems.
- It is clear this constitutes a global crisis – one that none of us can effectively face alone; responding to these rapid changes requires working together to exchange intelligence and best practices.
- We also welcome UNODC's findings on the necessity of scientific-evidence-based prevention treatment and services as a cornerstone to addressing rising global drug use. We agree that as we begin to shift to post-COVID-19 planning, prevention, treatment, and recovery support services should be prioritized and the innovative actions taken to increase access to these services during lockdowns, such as telehealth services, should remain available.
- We are concerned with the reports that indicate precursor chemicals, especially for methamphetamine, are largely undetected, especially as traffickers can easily change the synthesis of the precursor chemicals. Again, international cooperation is paramount.
- Finally, as the report made clear, opioid use continues to account for the largest burden of disease attributed to drugs. This is certainly true in the United States and North America, but elsewhere as well. A holistic

approach, driven by prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, and coupled with increased international cooperation to dismantle criminal groups and stop illegal manufacturing is necessary.