

GENERAL DEBATE

SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS (CND65)

MAIN THEME: BUILDING BACK BETTER FROM THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE(COVID19) WHILE ADVANCING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

14-18 MARCH 2022

H.E. Ghislain D'HOOP, Ambassador\Permanent Representative of Belgium and Chair of CND65

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies and Delegates

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Jamaica congratulates you, Chair, on your election to preside over this 65TH Session. Please be assured of my delegation's support.

Chair,

This year's theme is of special significance, as countries seek to recover and build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has laid bare the gaping and persistent inequities in our respective societies including the global framework for drug control.

It is a living demonstration that if we are to successfully combat this and future pandemics the discussions on access to medicines within the international drug control architecture must be prioritized. It is in this regard that Jamaica commends the CND and the treaty-mandated United Nations entities the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the clarion Call to Action on Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes.

Chair,

We thank the UNODC for its 2021 World Drug report. We note with concern, its findings regarding the acceleration of drug trafficking patterns by air, land, and sea, due in part to the pandemic. Should we continue on this trajectory, we place at risk the gains made in addressing the world drug problem.

We therefore call on all Members States to redouble and accelerate our joint efforts to implement the drug policy commitments of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and the 2016 Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly (UNGASS).

Jamaica is of the firm view that international cooperation is an indispensable tool for rolling back the negative impact of the pandemic and to address and counter the world drug problem. We should, therefore, be more deliberate in fostering international cooperation by the sharing of best practices, information, technology and resources and by promoting greater exchanges of intelligence and effective interdiction approaches.

We owe this much to our people for a safe and secure world

We call on our International Partners to remain steadfast and to scale up their commitments to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with their ever-porous borders, through technical assistance, capacity building, transfer of technologies and expertise, to strengthen our efforts at, inter alia, countering drug trafficking, investigations, interdictions, and prosecutions.

We would like to especially thank our development partners, the UNODC and key partners such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO), for their support through initiatives such as the AIRCOP, SEACOP, and Global Container Control Programme.

Chair,

Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to the three international drug conventions which are the cornerstone of the international drug control architecture, and vital to addressing and countering the world drug problem.

We also reaffirm the principal role of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations for drug control matters.

I thank you.