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

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Follow-up to 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*

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 reflect the comprehensive efforts undertaken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, 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 summary of the 2022 thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments by H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop (Belgium), Chair of the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, who chaired the thematic discussions of the sixty-fifth session, held on 19–20 September 2022 (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.1).

* E/CN.7/2023/1.

** This document has not been edited.



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.

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 an 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, 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 concludes with the resolve to review in the Commission in 2029 the progress in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with a midterm review in 2024.

5. 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 was submitted for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, in 2022 (E/CN.7/2022/6).

6. 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. Based on the challenges identified in the 2019 Declaration, the Commission adopted in June 2019 a multi-year workplan to discuss, during annual inter-sessional thematic sessions, how these challenges can be addressed through effectively implementing the provisions contained in the 2016, 2014 and 2009 documents (*see Chapter II for more information*).

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

7. Pursuant to the decision of Member States to focus on the practical implementation of all international drug policy commitments made since 2009, the Commission, supported by the Secretariat, has continued to support Member States with the implementation of all these commitments.

(a) CND Thematic Discussions

8. A core part of the Commission-led follow-up process to policy commitments 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.

9. Since the first round of CND thematic discussions on the UNGASS implementation in autumn 2016, over 600 Member States' interventions were made, and around 160 representatives of civil society addressed the Commission. In over

180 contributions, experts from various UN, international and regional partners, including UNODC, UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, Universal Postal Union (UPU), INCB, INTERPOL, IAEA, Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE, the European Union, the African Union Commission, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided input to the Commission's discussions.

(i) *Thematic discussions before 2022*

10. 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 Vladimir Galuška (Czechia), 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 along the seven thematic chapters of the UNGASS outcome document, calling on stakeholders to share good practices, challenges and lessons learned in their efforts to implement the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document. An **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 papers¹ with remarks by the Facilitator, summarizing the deliberations of the thematic discussions on the UNGASS chapters, as well as a background paper² by the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Angell-Hansen, were brought to the attention of the Commission. The presentations made during the meetings are available on the Commission's website.³

11. 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 2019,⁴ as well as the presentations made during these meetings and short reports of the proceedings are available on the Commission's website.⁵

12. 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 Bakhiet (Sudan), and facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Vivian Okeke (Nigeria), in her capacity as CND Facilitator for 2019 preparations, adopted on **24 June 2019 a multi-year workplan on the organization of inter-active thematic sessions in the period leading 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 2019 Ministerial Declaration, through the effective implementation of the provisions and

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

² E/CN.7/2017/CRP.9.

³ www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion.

⁴ E/CN.7/2018/CRP.14.

⁵ www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion.

recommendations contained in the three policy documents (2016, 2014, 2009). The multi-year workplan of the Commission is available on the Commission's website.⁶

13. The **first thematic session following the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration** was held from **16 to 18 October 2019**, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet (Sudan). Each day started with introductory presentations by UNODC, followed by a panel discussion with five experts per panel 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.

14. 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 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. A Chair's summary of the thematic discussions, held in October 2019, was made available in the form of a conference room paper to the sixty-third session of the Commission.⁷

15. Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, the Commission continued organizing the thematic discussions, in a hybrid format, allowing for in-person and online participations of stakeholders from around the world. The **second round of thematic discussions** was held from **19 to 21 October 2020**. The thematic discussions were chaired by H.E. Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus Brühlhart (Switzerland), Second Vice-Chair, on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan (Pakistan), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session. Thanks to the hybrid format, over 500 experts, practitioners, and policymakers from over 100 United Nations Member States, United Nations entities partners, as well as many other intergovernmental and international organizations and civil society experts from all over the world participated in the CND thematic discussions.

16. In line with the multi-year workplan, the thematic discussions focused in 2020 on how to address the following challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration: (a) drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased; (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; (c) the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels; and (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. A Chair's summary of the thematic discussions, held in October 2020, was made available in the form of a

⁶ www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/2019/Follow-up_to_2019_Ministerial_Declaration/Intersessional_Meetings/CND_Workplan_2019-2023.pdf.

⁷ 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).

conference room paper to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.⁸ The presentations made during the meetings are available on the Commission's website.⁹

17. The **2021 thematic discussions** were organized **from 19 to 21 October** in a hybrid format, combining in-person participation at the Vienna International Centre, in line with the COVID-19 preventive measures of the host country, and the online participation of interested stakeholders worldwide. In the *Joint statement of the Commission on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Member States' joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem*, adopted with resolution 64/1 at the regular sixty-fourth session in 2021, the Commission committed itself to giving due attention to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during its thematic discussions in 2021. Bearing in mind this commitment, the Commission focused its discussions on how to address the following challenges, including in light of the ongoing pandemic: (a) 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; (b) the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low; and (c) the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing. Each of those challenges was introduced in a panel discussion, followed by a thematic debate. The panels included representatives of the five regional groups, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental and international organizations, as well as representatives of civil society.

18. For the first time, the 2021 thematic discussions were hosted on a customized conference platform, which provided a coherent "one event experience" to the participants joining online and those joining in person alike. With over 600 registrations, the CND 2021 Thematic Discussions brought together experts and policymakers from over 100 Member States, United Nations entities partners, intergovernmental and international organizations, and civil society experts from around the world.

19. A summary by the Chair, which was not subject to negotiations, was made available in the form of a conference room paper to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.¹⁰ The presentations made during the meetings are also made available on the Commission's website.¹¹ In preparation for the thematic discussion, a background note, based on the findings of the 2021 World Drug Report and on contributions by the UNODC experts, was prepared by the Secretariat to the Commission.¹²

(ii) *Thematic Discussions 2022*

20. The 2022 Thematic Discussions were held from 21 to 22 September in a hybrid format, combining in-person participation at the Vienna International Centre with online participation through a customized conference platform, and livestreamed to ensure a wide international audience. In 2022, the discussions focused on the following challenge identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, namely that responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and

⁸ E/CN.7/2021/CRP.1: Chair's summary by H.E. Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus Bruehlhart (Switzerland), First Vice-Chair of the sixty-third 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 (19–21 October 2020).

⁹ www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html.

¹⁰ E/CN.7/2021/CRP.1: Chair's summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (19–21 October 2020).

¹¹ www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html. **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

¹² www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/2020/2020.09.24_Background_Note_by_the_Secretariat.pdf.

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. With over 700 registrations, the meeting brought together experts and policymakers from over 100 Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, international partners, and civil society experts worldwide. The thematic session on both days started with an introductory presentation and keynote introduction by experts UNODC, followed by a panel discussion and an interactive debate. The panels included experts from Member States nominated through the Regional Groups, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, international partners, and civil society. Following past practice, civil society panellists and speakers were nominated through the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (VNGOC) in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit.

21. Expert panellists participated from Brazil; China; Czechia; Kenya; Mexico; the Philippines; Portugal; Singapore; and the United States of America. In addition to the introductory presentations and remarks by UNODC, representatives nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO); the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the African Union Commission; the Council of Europe Pompidou Group; the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA); the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS-CICAD); the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, Thailand; and the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) made presentations in their respective fields of expertise. Observers from non-governmental organizations, including organizations based in Australia; Colombia; France; Ghana; India; Macau (Special Administrative Region of China); Türkiye; and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also made statements.

22. A non-negotiated summary by the Chair highlighting the salient points of the discussion has been made available in the form of a conference room paper to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.¹³ The presentations made during the meetings are also available on the Commission's dedicated website.¹⁴ In preparation for the thematic discussion, the Secretariat to the Commission prepared a background note based on the findings of the 2022 World Drug Report and on contributions by experts.¹⁵

(iii) *Thematic Discussions in 2023*

23. The next round of Thematic Discussions will be held in the second half of 2023. According to the multi-year workplan adopted by the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the thematic discussions in 2023 would be devoted to "comprehensive stock-taking" of the progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments in the lead-up to the 2024 midterm review. While the detailed organizational arrangements are yet to be decided, it is expected that, in order to cover all eleven challenges contained in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the 2023 thematic discussions will be held over six days, with half a day devoted to each challenge. The outcome of the discussions would be, in line with past practice, a non-negotiated Chair's summary.

¹³ E/CN.7/2023/CRP.1: Chair's summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (21–22 September 2022).

¹⁴ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/thematic-sessions.html. **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

¹⁵ www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_65/background_note_TD_2022.pdf.

(b) CND Subsidiary Bodies

24. 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.

25. These practitioners' 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. 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.

Meetings of the subsidiary bodies 2022

26. The 2022 meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were again held in person, as was the case before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the meetings, over 430 practitioners and experts from Europe, Africa, the Near and Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean exchanged views within their respective regional event on trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation; on synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors; on alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences; and on exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange.

27. The openings of the meetings were addressed by H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop (Belgium), Chair of the Commission at its sixty-fifth session and UNODC Executive Director Ms. Ghada Waly, via video messages. The sessions were chaired by representatives from each of the regions: Ms. Justine Grech, Inspector of the Drugs Squad of the Malta Police Force, for HONLEA Europe; Mr. Victor Okioma, Chief Executive Officer of the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol in Kenya, for HONLEA Africa; General Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik, Director General of the Antinarcotics Force of Pakistan, for HONLEA Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Fredy Anzueto Villatoro, Executive Secretary of the Commission Against Addiction and Illicit Trafficking, Guatemala, for HONLEA Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. Geldimyrat Haldurdyev, Head of the Legal and International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan, for the Subcommission. The next regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies are anticipated to be held in 2023.

28. Information on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission is consolidated in a procedural report by the Secretariat on the extraordinary sessions, which is made available to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session ([E/CN.7/2023/7](#)).

(c) CND Websites and Tools

29. Information-sharing is key to delivering better, more efficient responses, facilitating decision-making, and fostering innovation. Drawing on 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 dedicated tools and platforms.

30. The Secretariat has developed a set of tools to support the Commission. In addition to the Commission's general website (cnd.unodc.org), the Secretariat has recently created a new Ministerial Declaration Follow-up Portal. The Portal contains the follow-up workplan adopted by the Commission, the name of panellists who participated in the Commission's thematic discussions since 2016, and the presentations and statements delivered during the discussions, all retrievable through the Portal's search function. The Portal, which aims to facilitate the review and follow-up process to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, is expected to be launched during the Commission's sixty-sixth regular session.

31. The Commission further continues to use 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).

32. The Secretariat to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has, since the outbreak of the pandemic, worked on the development of eLearning tools and concepts for online training delivery, with a view to facilitate information and knowledge sharing in an online format. The provision of extrabudgetary resources allowed for the development of an *eLearning tool on the normative functions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs under the three international drug control conventions*. This course "Introduction to Scheduling" is targeting Member States' delegates involved in the work of the Commission, as well as all other stakeholders interested in the CND and the international drug control system and is available on the Commission's website,¹⁶ in English and Chinese.¹⁷

33. In addition, the Secretariat developed an *eLearning tool on the "Implementation of all drug policy commitments"*. In the course, users learn about the work of the Commission, its relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the substantive areas covered by drug policy recommendations made at the international level. The course consists of eight modules: an introduction to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as modules on demand reduction, availability and access, supply reduction, cross-cutting issues, trends and new challenges, international cooperation, and alternative development. Under each module, users find the challenges identified as well as the recommendations and commitments made by Member States and examples of implementation of these recommendations. The user also learns about the support UNODC offers to Member States in achieving their commitments. Each lesson ends with links to documents referred to and contact information. The course, hosted on the UNODC eLearning platform, is publicly accessible through the CND website.¹⁸ A presentation on the tool was made during the reconvened sixty-fourth session of the Commission in December 2021 and during the regular sixty-fifth session in March 2022.

34. In the course of 2022, under the Chair's "Availability and Access" initiative (*see report section (c)*), the Secretariat to the Commission developed an E-Learning tool on "Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes".¹⁹ The E-learning tool, comprising 4 modules and available in English, aims to raise awareness about the policy commitments and challenges related to the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, as well as to showcase the contributions of key international stakeholders in this area. The course's targeted audiences are Government officials and policymakers responsible for drug policy and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations working in drug policy or interested in the topic.

¹⁶ Scheduling eLearning Tutorial (unodc.org).

¹⁷ During 2021, extrabudgetary resources were provided for the translation of the tool into Chinese www.unodc.org/unodc/zh/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/scheduling-elearning-tutorial.html.

¹⁸ <https://golearn.unodc.org/lms/course/view.php?id=505>.

¹⁹ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/availability_accessibility_e-learning.html.

35. The Secretariat has further produced two introductory videos on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The introductory videos aim to raise awareness about the work of the Commissions and provide an introduction on their mandates, elections, membership, as well as substantive information on the respective policymaking and operational functions, as well as general logistical information. The videos, available in Chinese, English and French, target all who are interested in the work of the Commission, including representatives of Permanent Missions joining the Vienna community.²⁰

(d) National Implementation Workshops

36. 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 2020 in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan, and Fiji. National workshops on the practical implementation of all drug policy commitments as highlighted in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration were held between 2019 and 2020 in Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia. 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 Organization of American States in Antigua and Barbuda and in St. Kitts and Nevis in August 2019. Adapting to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat also organized an online workshop with Kenya on 29 September 2020.

37. The above-mentioned *eLearning tool on the “Implementation of all drug policy commitments”* remains, also – post-COVID-19, a complementary tool, providing course material in an interactive format, and – hence – can be used in addition to in-person and live online workshops.

(e) Special Events

38. Every year the Commission organizes a number of side events and special events. In 2022, the Commission continued to organize special events in a hybrid format.

39. On 28 June 2022, the CND held a special commemorative event on the occasion of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. During the event, held in a hybrid format, the 2022 World Drug Report was launched. The event was held under the overall theme for 2022 of “Care In Crises”, which focused on addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises. The event paid particular attention to the impact of the world drug problem on the environment, highlighting the direct and indirect effects of illicit crop cultivation, drug manufacture and drug policy responses on the environment, with a view to support Member States in anticipating and addressing environmental challenges and in mitigating risks. Chaired by the CND Chair H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop (Belgium), the opening of the special event was addressed by UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, as well as by youth representatives from the UNODC Youth Forum which is held annually in the margins of the regular session of the Commission. The World

²⁰ Videos available under “Useful Resources” here for the CND, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html and here for the CCPCJ: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html.

Drug Day commemoration further included a panel discussion with interventions by Mr. Nicolas Prisse, President of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA) of France; H.E. Mr. Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Vienna; H.E. Ms. Barbara Zvokelj, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations in Vienna; H.E. Ms. Morakot Sriwasdi, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Vienna; and Ms. Sylvia Kay, from the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and saw statements made by 24 Member States and three Civil Society Organizations.

40. On 6 July 2022, a virtual side event was organized in the margins of the 2022 ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), on the topic of leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on drugs and crime, with a focus on responses by the Commission of Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.²¹ The Chairs of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice delivered presentations focused on the topic of the 2022 HLPF “*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”. The CND Chair, H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop (Belgium), provided a briefing on the latest contributions and initiatives of the Commission to counter the impact of the pandemic on the world drug problem. The side event featured presentations from Dr. Gabriella Vukovich, Chair of the fifty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, focused on the importance of robust statistical systems to build back better; the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, who presented the findings of recent studies on the effects of the pandemic on drugs and crime; and the Secretariat to the Vienna-based Commissions, who provided a briefing on the working methods of the two Commissions. Furthermore, the Commission provided its annual substantive contribution to the HLPF and a language proposal on behalf of the Commission was submitted to the two Co-Chairs of the negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration of the High-level segment of the 2022 session of the ECOSOC HLPF. The text proposal aimed at reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of the world drug problem and at raising awareness for the work of the CND. The final version of the Declaration, adopted on 15 July 2022, reflected the input submitted by the Commission recognizing the consequences of COVID-19 on all aspects of the world drug problem, the need for multidisciplinary efforts to address and counter the world drug problem, thereby referring to the Commission’s 2021 *Joint statement on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of the world drug problem* (E/HLS/2022/1).²²

41. On 30 September 2022, a virtual briefing on the work undertaken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was organized, ahead of the consideration by the General Assembly’s Third Committee of the agenda items on “Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” and “International drug control”, for Permanent Missions of the United Nations in New York and interested stakeholders. The briefing was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York and UNODC provided an update on the work undertaken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during its 65th session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its 31st session, as well as the follow-up process to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan. The briefing intended to raise awareness about the work undertaken by the two Vienna-based Commissions as well as to provide a forecast of upcoming events planned by the Commissions in the period ahead, with a view to encourage the active participation of all Member States, including those that do not have a Permanent Mission in Vienna. The briefing further aimed at bridging the deliberations held in Vienna and in New York, in preparation

²¹ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/2022_hlpf_side_event.html.

²² <https://undocs.org/en/E/HLS/2022/1>.

also for the negotiations on the annual “omnibus” resolutions on drugs and crime facilitated by the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Italy, respectively. Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York, followed by remarks by the Deputy Permanent Representatives of Italy and Mexico to the United Nations in New York. A presentation was made by the Secretariat to the Commissions. The meeting was moderated by the representative of the UNODC New York Office.

42. During its sixty-fifth session in 2022 – which also marked the 45th anniversary of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines – the Chair of the 65th session initiated the “Availability and Access initiative” to scale up the implementation of international drug policy commitments on improving availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. The initiative consisted of a series of awareness-raising events and discussions, an information media campaign on the topic “No Patient Left Behind”, and the development of an E-Learning tool on availability and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. The initiative was launched through a Joint Call to Action held by the CND and the UNODC, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board – on 14 March 2022, the opening day of the sixty-fifth regular session of the CND. The Commission held an event in New York on 8 June 2022, and in Geneva on 6 September 2022. The initiative culminated in the One-Day Special Forum on 10 October 2022, held in a hybrid format, in Vienna and online. The Special Forum commenced with a high-level opening and the launch of the Secretariat’s e-learning tool on Availability and Access, followed by two panel discussions. The panel discussions were moderated by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 65th session, H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop, and featured an array of experts from Member States and other stakeholders. During the question-and-answer session good practices and strategies in improving availability and access were shared by experts and the audience. The initiative, which was very well followed in social media, sent a strong signal on the importance of positioning the topic of availability and access to controlled medicines at the centre of the international drug policy dialogue.

43. 2022 was another challenging year for the intergovernmental work of the Commission, in particular in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Using online and hybrid meeting options continued to be resource-intensive, necessitating additional human resources and, hence, adequate and predictable funding. The extrabudgetary resources provided by donor countries have enabled the CND Secretariat to use such new meeting formats. Extrabudgetary resources have enabled the Secretariat to further fine-tune the customized conference platform and to develop the above mentioned – technical tools, aimed to facilitate communication with all interested stakeholders. The Secretariat stand ready to, drawing on the lessons learnt and experience gained over the past years, further strengthen the work of the Commission and “build back better” post-COVID-19, provided that the necessary financial resources are being made available. The Secretariat to the UNODC Governing Bodies stands ready to discuss initiatives and related funding needs with interested delegations.