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

Vienna, 13–17 March 2023

Items 7 and 9 of the provisional agenda\*

**Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem****Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development****Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem\*\*****I. Introduction**

1. Building upon the experiences gained in 2020 and 2021 in ensuring business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat continued to work on innovative solutions, to strengthen intergovernmental and inter-agency cooperation.

**II. International cooperation**

2. 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 standalone chapter on strengthening international cooperation. The title of the outcome document, “*Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem*”

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\* E/CN.7/2023/1.

\*\* This document has not been edited.



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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Member States also reaffirmed the principal role of the 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. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, UNODC was encouraged 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.

6. Cooperation also takes place among United Nations intergovernmental bodies. 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, the 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.

7. 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. The hybrid meeting format introduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, continued to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna.

### **III. Inter-agency cooperation**

8. 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, UNAIDS, the United

Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

9. Through a network of focal points, established on the basis of the decision of the Executive Committee, UNODC has since maintained a close dialogue with the relevant UN partners and has been providing regular updates on the work of the Commission. UNODC is also actively reaching out to United Nations entities to contribute to the CND thematic discussions on the implementation of international drug policy commitments. More information on this is provided below.

10. 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. In the first half of 2021, new initiatives were reported by UNIC, UNODC, UNAIDS and OHCHR and included in an updated version of the matrix.

11. 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.

12. 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 UN-system Coordination Task Team, led by UNODC, was created within the framework of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee.

13. During the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, Member States were briefed on the work of the Task Team under the agenda item "Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem".

14. In the reporting period, the UNODC-led Task Team continued to conduct online meetings and explored measures to maximally utilize the expertise within the United Nations system in implementing the Common Position, including through the renomination of focal points from all relevant organizations, for a balanced, comprehensive and integrated approach. The Task Team also intensified efforts to make its guidelines for the United Nations Country Teams to conduct a Common Country Analysis and develop country strategies, more accessible.

15. In addition to the regular exchange with the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies continued to be engaged in an informal United Nations system-wide network of Secretariats to Governing Bodies. The United Nations Governing Body Secretariats network (UNGBS) ensures coordination and exchange of good practices in the United Nations Governance system and meets to discuss issues specific to governance of their respective organization. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic the UNGBS exchanged online information including on remote and hybrid working modalities, the use of different online platforms, the use of the INDICO registration system and on virtual decision-making processes in the governing bodies. The

Secretariat to the Governing Bodies is contributing experiences and challenges related to the work of the Vienna-based functional commissions of the ECOSOC. Participating entities in that network are, among others, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

16. A number of concrete examples of joint efforts to support Member States with the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, undertaken by United Nations entities and international partners, are provided below:<sup>1</sup>

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

17. UNODC organized a technical consultation session to develop a publication in line with the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention that assists in improving the role of law enforcement officers in drug prevention in school settings. In addition, UNODC mobilized 24,300 young people to meaningfully participate in the drug prevention efforts of their communities through its Youth Initiative.

18. UNODC and WHO launched the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on the Prevention of Drug Use and the Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders, bringing together 15 international and regional intergovernmental organizations to increase the impact of inter-agency collaboration and accelerate the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, as well as target 3.5 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). As of 1 January 2022, WHO had operationalized the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases, which includes a revised section on disorders due to alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours.

19. UNODC, as the convening agency within UNAIDS for people who use drugs and people in prison, supported 47 States in developing and implementing HIV interventions for people who use drugs and people in prison, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict and humanitarian settings. To address gender inequalities, discrimination and violence that negatively impact women who inject drugs and women in prison, UNODC organized 96 workshops to disseminate a technical brief entitled “Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis” and a technical guide entitled “Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons”. UNODC field-tested a tool for monitoring epidemiological trends in the vertical transmission of HIV in prisons and led the development of an update report on HIV in prison settings, which was presented to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board.

<sup>1</sup> The examples are taken from the Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/77/137): <https://undocs.org/A/77/137>.

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

20. UNODC continued to collaborate with United Nations entities, including IAEA, INCB, UNDP and WHO, and with partners to advocate for increased access to controlled medicines. UNODC contributed to regional training sessions organized by the INCB Learning global programme and to other capacity-building events organized by INCB in April, May and June 2022. In addition, UNODC continued to serve on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, partnering with other United Nations entities to ensure access to controlled medicines for persons suffering from such diseases.

21. In 2022, the CND Secretariat and UNODC supported efforts by the Chair of the Commission to scale up the implementation of the international drug policy commitments on improving the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. More information could be found in *part IV – Inter-Commission’s cooperation*.

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

22. The police components in the Department of Peace Operations mission settings continued to support States in building their criminal investigation, crime analysis and forensic and intelligence-gathering capabilities, as well as the capabilities of their rule of law institutions. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo collaborated with the International Organization for Migration, UNDP, the United Nations Mine Action Service and UNODC on a joint support programme for justice in support of the National Police of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and UNODC carried out a joint project to support national law enforcement agencies in increasing their awareness and understanding of drug trafficking and organized crime. Preparations are under way for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and UNODC to provide joint support to the South Sudan National Police Service.

23. In April 2022, UNODC and WCO organized a regional conference on container control for the Caribbean region as part of the basket fund support to the Haitian National Police. The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti participated in the conference and provided financial support for the participation of the National Police.

24. UNODC also supported States in countering drug trafficking by facilitating cooperation across jurisdictions. In 2021, the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus facilitated seven judicial cooperation requests and issued 15 coordination alerts on drug seizures in collaboration with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. Under its global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes, UNODC delivered 298 technical assistance and capacity-building activities in Latin America and West Africa, including 44 investigative case forums aimed at facilitating cooperation and information exchange on post-seizure investigations, benefiting over 15,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and criminal justice officers.

**Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities**

25. UNODC continued to support States in improving the quality of comprehensive, evidence- and human rights-based treatment and care services by building the capacities of 360 professionals from 24 States and by developing quality assurance mechanisms. Together with WHO, UNODC launched the

publication entitled “Quality assurance in treatment for drug use disorders: key quality standards for service appraisal” during a briefing attended by 240 professionals from 80 States.

26. OHCHR continued to collaborate with UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO and other partners to disseminate and promote the international guidelines on human rights and drug policy. In September 2021, the third regional implementation dialogue for the international guidelines on human rights and drug policy was jointly organized by OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP and other partners. A national dialogue with the judiciary of Albania was organized by OHCHR, UNDP and other partners, leading to the integration of the guidelines into the national training curricula for judges.

27. Together with UN-Women and the International Association of Women Police, UNODC published the *Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, which includes guidance on reducing stereotyping and discrimination against women who use drugs and on assessing and addressing drug and alcohol problems that may increase the risk of perpetrators committing gender-based violence.

**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**

28. UNODC continued to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national forensic laboratories and law enforcement agencies by providing manuals on recommended laboratory methods and forensic guidelines, developing and delivering virtual and laboratory training courses on the safe handling, investigation and detection of drugs, including new psychoactive substances and their precursors, providing field-testing kits, including handheld Raman spectroscopic devices, providing controlled substances for scientific use from the UNODC reference standards collection, and organizing assistance activities and international collaborative exercises, including a proficiency test for national laboratories in which 310 laboratories from 86 States participated in 2021. In addition, UNODC provided scientific support to law enforcement agencies in Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America and West Africa. Technical capacity-building on the safe handling and disposal of seized chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs continued for States in Central and South America.

29. The use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, a joint effort of INCB, UNODC, UPU and WHO launched in March 2019, was promoted in 2022. To support States during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Toolkit included a specialized module on the implications of the pandemic for responses to the synthetic drug problem.

30. UNODC also supported the development of drug use surveys in Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The Office continued to collaborate with UNAIDS, WHO and civil society organizations to streamline international data collection and harmonize standards in drug epidemiology.

**Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility**

31. On 28 June 2022, the CND held a special commemorative event at the occasion of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and Launch of the 2022 World Drug Report, in a hybrid format. The event was organized under the overall theme “addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises”. The theme aimed at reinforcing the importance of protecting the right to health of the most vulnerable, including children and youth, people using drugs, and people who need access to controlled medicines, in the context of existing and emerging transnational drug challenges stemming from crisis

situations. Chaired by the CND Chair of the sixty-fifth session, H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop, the special event was addressed by UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, as well as two youth representatives from the UNODC Youth Forum, which was held in the margins of the CND regular sessions in March 2022. The World Drug Day commemoration featured an interactive panel discussion on drugs and the environment, with interventions made by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in Vienna from Colombia, Slovenia and Thailand; the President of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours of France; and the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs. Following the discussion, interventions were made by over 20 Member States and three additional civil society organizations.

32. The 2022 CND Thematic Discussions were held from 21 to 22 September in a hybrid format, with an in-person component in the Vienna International Centre and online participation worldwide, and livestreamed to ensure that all interested stakeholders could follow the deliberations. With around 700 registrations, the meeting provides a good example of inter-agency collaboration and exchange as it brought together experts and policymakers from over 100 Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, international partners, and civil society experts from around the world.

33. The discussions focused on how responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and 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. The thematic sessions started with an introductory presentation and keynote introduction by experts from UNODC, followed by a panel discussion and an interactive debate. The panels included experts from Member States nominated through the Regional Groups, UN 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.

34. Expert panellists participated from Brazil; China; Czechia; Kenya; Mexico; the Philippines; Portugal; Singapore; and the United States. In addition to the introductory presentations and remarks by UNODC, representatives nominated by the WHO, INCB, OHCHR, UNAIDS, 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 also made statements.

35. A summary by the Chair, which was not subject to negotiations, has been made available in the form of a conference room paper to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.<sup>2</sup> The presentations made during the meetings,<sup>3</sup> along with a procedural report,<sup>4</sup> has also been made available on the Commission’s website.<sup>5</sup> In preparation for the thematic discussion, a background note, based on the findings of the 2022

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<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> [TD\\_statements \(unodc.org\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> <https://adobe.ly/3IS2bTf>.

<sup>5</sup> [Thematic sessions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration \(unodc.org\)](#).

World Drug Report and on contributions by UNODC's relevant branches, was prepared by the Secretariat to the Commission.<sup>6</sup>

#### IV. Inter-commissions' cooperation<sup>7</sup>

36. In 2022, the CND continued its efforts to enhance vertical cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and 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.

37. In contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the CND continued to submit annual substantive contributions, including on the 2022 theme "*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", for consideration by the Economic and Social Council High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

38. On 4 February 2022, the CND Chair of the sixty-fifth session, H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop (Belgium), attended the Coordination Segment of the ECOSOC, which aimed, among others, to develop an action-oriented assessment and recommendations to help subsidiary bodies contribute to the preparations for the thematic review of the 2022 HLPF, particularly the segments entitled "Presentations by ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies" and "Reflections on the work of ECOSOC subsidiary Bodies". A video message from the CND Chair,<sup>8</sup> touching upon the Commission's work, was broadcasted alongside video messages from the Chairs of other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The importance of strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic was also stressed in the Coordination Segment.

39. On 8 June 2022, the CND Chair, at the occasion of the ECOSOC Management Segment in United Nations Headquarters, delivered a presentation of the recent work of the CND in addressing all aspects of the world drug problem. The reports of the CND and the INCB were introduced at the meeting, and all submitted resolutions and decisions were acted upon by the ECOSOC.

40. On 6 July 2022, the CND and CCPCJ organized a high-level side event, entitled "Leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on drugs and crime – integrated multidisciplinary responses by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", on the margins of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Chair of the CND at its 65th session, H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop (Belgium), provided a briefing on the latest contributions and initiatives of the CND and introduced effective measures which had been explored to counter the impact of the pandemic on the world drug problem. It was emphasized that addressing the world drug problem matters to Build Back Better, as access to effective and humane drug use treatment was a key aspect of promoting health and well-being worldwide.

41. The side event featured presentations from Dr. Gabriella Vukovich, Chair of the 53rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the importance of robust statistical systems to build back better, as well as from the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, who presented findings from recent studies on the effects of the pandemic on drugs and crime, including topics ranging from the drug supply chain, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, to

<sup>6</sup> [background\\_note\\_TD\\_2022.pdf \(unodc.org\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Cooperation efforts are reflected until early February 2023.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC/HLPF2022/CND\\_Chair\\_ECOSOC.mp4](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC/HLPF2022/CND_Chair_ECOSOC.mp4).



violence, organized crime, and trafficking of COVID-19 related medical products. The Secretary to the Commission also provided a briefing on the working methods of the Vienna-based Commissions, including examples of cooperation among the CND and other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

42. The Commission took an active role in the review by the Economic and Social Council of its functional commissions and expert bodies mandated by General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#). A review of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the ECOSOC was conducted from November 2021 to June 2022. The CND actively contributed to this review process, not only by participating in ECOSOC-wide meetings and briefings, but also through a trilateral dialogue with H.E. Ambassador Stoeva, the Vice-President of the Council in charge of the review, and a joint CND-CCPCJ dialogue with the membership of the two Commissions. Following that comprehensive and inclusive process, the CND submitted assessments of its work to the Council in April 2022.

43. In its decision 2022/334, the Economic and Social Council took note of the summary of the Vice-President of the Council on the review, as contained in a letter dated 27 May 2022 from the Vice-President to all Member States, which invited the President and Bureau of the Council, the Chairs and bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council, all Member States and the Secretariat to implement, to the extent possible within existing mandates and resources, the recommendations contained in the summary. At its reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Commission considered a conference room paper by the Secretariat on the Council's review (E/CN.7/2022/CRP.17-E/CN.15/2022/CRP.10).

44. At its sixty-fifth session, the Chair of the Commission launched, in close cooperation with the Executive Director of UNODC, the Director General of WHO and the President of INCB, a global initiative to scale up the implementation of the international drug policy commitments on improving availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.<sup>9</sup> The Chair's initiative encompassed a global awareness-raising campaign focusing on the topic of "No Patient Left Behind", with events held at the United Nations offices in Vienna, New York and Geneva – culminating in the One-Day Special Forum in Vienna and online on 10 October 2022. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the global crisis regarding the lack of access to controlled medicines, and to bring about positive change in this area. Under the initiative, the Secretariat of the Commission also developed an E-Learning course on availability and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.<sup>10</sup>

45. On 31 August 2022, the CND Chair participated in the launch of the INCB eLearning module on "ensuring the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes". The CND Chair delivered remarks, recalling that the commitment to ensure adequate availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes could be found in all major CND policy documents, and calling for more to be done to fulfil this commitment.

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<sup>9</sup> [availability\\_and\\_access \(unodc.org\)](#).

<sup>10</sup> See [availability\\_accessibility\\_e-learning \(unodc.org\)](#).