



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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### Draft report

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#### Addendum

### 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

1. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 16 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

“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”.

2. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009;<sup>1</sup>

(b) Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;<sup>2</sup>

(c) Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex);

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



(d) 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;<sup>3</sup>

(e) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2);

(f) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2023/4);

(g) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2023/5);

(h) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2023/9);

(i) Conference room paper containing the Chair's summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (21 and 22 September 2023) (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.1);

(j) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.2).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Secretary of the Commission, a representative of the secretariat of the Commission, the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch and the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC. In addition, representatives of the UNODC Youth Forum and representatives of the scientific community made statements.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Thailand, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea (pre-recorded video), the Russian Federation (online), Canada, China, South Africa, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mexico (both pre-recorded video and in person), Kenya, Bangladesh,<sup>4</sup> Nigeria, Angola, Algeria and France.

5. A statement was made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of the European Union and its member States),<sup>5</sup> and the observers for Norway, Indonesia, Paraguay and India.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for the International AIDS Society (pre-recorded video), the "Utrip" Institute for Research and Development, the Open Society Institute, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), the Institute for Policy Studies and Corporación ATS Acción Técnica Social.

## A. Deliberations

7. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the three international drug control conventions, which, together with other relevant international instruments, constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Another speaker

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>4</sup> Also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>5</sup> Also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

stated that ending punitive drug policies could require changing the international drug control conventions. Many speakers expressed their commitment to the international drug policy commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, and the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, noted the importance of accelerating the implementation of those commitments until 2029, and stressed that the midterm review of progress made in implementing those commitments, to be held in 2024, was a good opportunity in that regard.

8. Many speakers recalled the role of the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters. The holding of the intersessional thematic discussions by the Commission was noted with appreciation, and the launch of the portal for follow-up on the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 was welcomed.

9. Many speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach to drug policy that respected and promoted health, human rights and fundamental freedoms. A number of speakers shared information on national efforts regarding legislation, policy development, the strengthening of institutions, capacity-building and international cooperation to foster the implementation of the policy documents of 2009, 2014 and 2016, as reiterated in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. The need for accurate and reliable data was underlined in that regard.

10. A number of speakers shared information on demand reduction efforts in their countries. They reported on the implementation of prevention measures through educational initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns, including for children and youth. Life skills programmes and positive parenting programmes were also mentioned in that regard. In addition, some speakers reported on their countries' efforts to step up evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation and support for recovery services, as well as alternatives to incarceration programmes for people with drug use disorders, in cooperation with relevant public and private sector actors as well as civil society. The availability and accessibility of such services without stigma and discrimination, including for populations in a situation of marginalization, was highlighted as a key factor in their success. A number of speakers reported on their countries' national harm reduction programmes, including needle and syringe programmes, and other measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other communicable diseases, as well as efforts for the management of overdoses. The cooperation with UNODC, INCB, WHO, UNAIDS and other international organizations in the area of demand reduction and health-related measures was welcomed. A number of speakers highlighted that additional measures were needed to address persisting challenges with regard to access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

11. Many speakers informed the Commission about recent legislation and measures to strengthen capacity in their countries for the investigation of drug trafficking cases and the dismantling of organized criminal groups, and reported statistics on drug seizures and asset confiscation. Measures to strengthen the investigation of money-laundering with a view to preventing the legalization of drug trafficking revenues were also reported. A number of speakers informed the Commission of measures to strengthen the tracing, seizure, freezing and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking through the use of enhanced financial investigation techniques and confiscation laws, including laws on non-conviction-based confiscation. The impact of drug trafficking offences on the environment and the links to other offences, such as trafficking in persons, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, were also mentioned. A number of speakers reported on capacity-building measures for criminal justice, law enforcement and border control agencies provided by, inter alia, UNODC and INCB, and a number of speakers called upon the international community to strengthen such capacity-building measures. The need for adequate, predictable and

sustainable funding for UNODC so that it could provide capacity-building was highlighted.

12. A number of speakers informed the Commission of their efforts to place human rights at the centre of their national drug policies and to mainstream the specific needs of women, young people and communities into their demand and supply reduction efforts.

13. Many speakers reported on recent trends regarding drug trafficking in the territory of their countries, such as the use of the darknet and the use of cryptocurrencies for payment, and welcomed the information provided in the *World Drug Report 2022* in that regard. The persistent threat posed by new psychoactive substances was mentioned by a number of speakers. A number of speakers made reference to the use of information and communications technologies for drug-related crimes and reported on national investigation efforts in such cases.

14. A number of speakers made reference to international, regional and bilateral cooperation efforts to address the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. Some speakers made reference to joint law enforcement operations and the use of special investigative techniques such as cross-border controlled deliveries or the use of blockchain technology to track the flow of digital money associated with drug trafficking. Many speakers referred to the significance of enhancing information-sharing to promote international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

15. Some speakers also reported on their countries' efforts in alternative development and called for a development-oriented drug control strategy.

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