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Intervention Statement

Sixty-Sixth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

at the Vienna International Center

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Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. Excellencies, distinguished colleagues and delegates,... Good day.

First of all, allow me to congratulate the Chair for his recent appointment and the Working Committees responsible for the excellent arrangements to facilitate this year's Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Session. With your hard work and preparation, this year's gathering is already a guaranteed success.

While still affected by the continuing challenges of COVID, Colombo Plan appreciates the strong partnerships with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Civil Society Organizations and the twenty-eight (28) member states which composes the Colombo Plan as an inter-governmental organization since 1951. Dealing with complex issues of drug abuse and crime would be truly difficult without the active support of our member countries and various stakeholders.

Allow me to also mention that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Drug Advisory Program of Colombo Plan. With the support from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Administration of the US State Department and contributions from member

countries, the Drug Advisory Program has the distinction of being the flagship program of Colombo plan since 1973. Through-out the fifty (50) years of its existence, our expanding partnership with respective government focal agencies (mostly narcotic agencies of respective countries) and other organizations like the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP), the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), International Technology Transfer Centers (ITTC), the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), just to name a few, enabled us to provide evidenced-based capacity-building activities and projects to cover more than 80 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.... Through our Global Credentialling and Certification Center, we have provided credentials to over 3000 addiction professionals from these countries, assuring the highest level of service quality for Substance Use Disorder clients worldwide. Gender-related and age-specific modules have also been developed to address a variety of demographic conditions which may require unique interventions. On this front, we are continually expanding and upgrading our Universal Treatment and Prevention Curriculums to assure dynamic adoption of policies based on new developments in the field of addiction medicine and policies promulgated by the CND.

Likewise Colombo Plan's Global Toxic Adulterant Project has been engaged in the global testing and analysis of seized drug samples as well as conducting researches on the immediate and long-term public health implications of adulterants. Providing capacity building activities for forensic and national reference laboratories worldwide, the project is currently engaged in tracking alarming "super-stimulant" effects reported by users in the middle-east. Since 2017, the project has identified more than 15 substances being used in thirty-two percent (32%) of street-level drugs, with many exceeding toxic or lethal dosages of such additives. With the use of world's first portable GS/MS drug Testing machine (FLIR G510) also developed by Colombo Plan scientists and experts, the organization is dedicated to continue to monitor the illicit drug supply for the presence of these adulterants. Such information will be of critical value for the enforcement and public health sector.

Colombo Plan undertakes above-mentioned tasks as it welcomes the principle that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, are complementary and mutually reinforcing, with equal weight and significance in the global community's efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.

Chair, rest assured that our organization, will continue with the belief that all three documents must be given the same emphasis and attention. Together with the three drug conventions which serve as the cornerstone of the international drug control system, they all represent the commitments and obligations collectively made. Likewise, we commit to diligently review initiatives, progress in the implementation of appropriate international drug policy commitments, for the mid-term review in 2024.

Any policy review and issuance made by the CND will be held with the highest esteem by our organization. This also allows us to intensify technical assistance and capacity building in the areas in which it is needed and by the Colombo Plan Member and Non-member States who request it.

Again, wishing for more success concerning our mutual interests. Thank you for allowing our organization this opportunity to air our thoughts. Mr Chair.