



FROM COMMITMENTS TO RESULTS CND CHAIR'S INITIATIVE “PLEDGE 4 ACTION”

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. The high-level mid-term review in 2024, hence, represents a critical moment to renew our resolve to make a difference in the lives of people across the globe.

WHAT IS PLEDGE4ACTION?

Reaffirming our renewed and unwavering commitment to address the world drug problem, a voluntary “Pledge4Action” initiative is proposed by the Chair of the Commission at its sixty-seventh session, to mobilize Member States' commitment toward concrete, impactful actions along the key challenges outlined in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration including the cross-cutting challenge on data collection. Pledges are the bridge that connects commitment to concrete action. They are a public declaration of intent, signifying a Member State's readiness to invest efforts, expertise, and resources into making a difference. Pledges have the potential to result in tangible projects and programs designed to address specific challenges. By committing to a pledge, Member States move from policy articulation to policy implementation, turning words into deeds.

The pledging will take place during the General Debate of the mid-term review.

This initiative aims to facilitate pledges as follows:

- **NATIONAL, REGIONAL, OR GLOBAL INITIATIVES:** Member States are invited to pledge their commitment to initiate or support projects and programs that contribute to the implementation of specific commitments related to the challenges.

[EXAMPLE: "Country X pledges to establish a state-of-the-art comprehensive drug treatment centre, dedicated to providing evidence-based rehabilitation and recovery services for individuals with substance use disorders within the next X months. The centre will be equipped with inpatient and outpatient facilities, medical and psychological support, and vocational training resources to ensure a holistic approach to treatment. It will have a capacity to serve up to 500 individuals at any given time and will prioritize a client-centered approach to address the unique needs of each patient.]

- **COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS:** Pledges may entail cooperative efforts to engage partners and stakeholders in joint initiatives to facilitate holistic responses to the challenges.

[EXAMPLE: Country Y: pledges to set up a national coordination task force comprising different Ministries and stakeholders to work on a new national drug policy within the next 12 months.]

- **BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Member States are encouraged to increase budget allocations for the implementation of drug policy programmes or pledge financial support to partners, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with a view to enable the realization of specific projects addressing the challenges.

[EXAMPLE: Country Z pledges to provide a financial contribution of \$3 million to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime CHAMPS programme, aimed at amplifying the resilience of children from birth to adolescence to prevent the use of drugs and other psychoactive substances. The funds will be disbursed over the next six years (annual average \$ 500,000) and used to build systems of integrated services.]

WHY PLEDGE?

The “Pledging for Action” is a public testament to the determination to implement drug policy commitments. By pledging publicly, Member States can demonstrate leadership in addressing the key challenges outlined in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, share success stories with the international community, and inspire others to take action.

HOW DOES THE PLEDGING WORK?

If a Member State is interested to make a pledge at the time of the General Debate of the CND mid-term review, the Permanent Missions is to **inform the Secretariat to the Commission (unodc-sgb@un.org) as soon as possible and share the text of the pledge no later than 1st March 2024.**

The pledge would be made at the end of the intervention delivered during the General Debate (14-15 March 2024). The representative of the country would finish the statement with the pledge, saying: **“With a view to enhancing the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, and in addressing the challenge(s) that [ADD (ONE OF) THE CHALLENGE(S)] I pledge for [COUNTRY XY] to [ADD THE PLEDGE AND THE TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION]”**

[EXAMPLE: “With a view to enhancing the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, and in addressing the challenge that [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] - I pledge for [name country] to [organize a regional meeting on enhancing access and availability of controlled substances within the next 12 months, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other interested Member States and stakeholders, including within the region].]

After having read the pledge, the representative will proceed with dropping a prepared building block with the respective country flag in a transparent box placed on a small stage on the podium – as a visual confirmation of the pledge made. A photo of the representative making the pledge and dropping the building block will be taken. The box with all pledges will serve as reminder of the pledges made and will be used for follow-up meetings after the Pledge4Action event. Photo opportunities with the "Box of Pledges" can be arranged after the general debate.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PLEDGE4ACTION EVENT?

The CND Secretariat will launch a website showcasing all pledges made during the general debate. In addition, as part of the Chair's initiative, Member States will be invited to provide updates on their pledges in the CND from 2024 to 2028, in the lead up to the 2029 review. This allows Member States to "champion" specific initiatives, and to share successes and lessons learned.

ANNEX - CHALLENGES

At its 62nd session in March 2019 the Commission adopted by consensus the 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*”. In the “Stocktaking”- part of the Declaration Member States identified the following challenges:

that both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying;
that 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 that the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise;
that 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;
that drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased;
and that 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;
that the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels;
that 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;
that 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;
that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low;
that the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug - related activities is increasing;
that 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;
that geographical coverage and availability of reliable data on the various aspects on the world drug problem requires improvement (1)

¹ This “twelfth” challenge has been treated as a cross-cutting challenge during the CND thematic discussions held from 2019 till 2023 and has been addressed under each of the “eleven” challenges.