

United States Statement Under Implementation of the International Drug Control Treaties Agenda Item

The United States welcomes this discussion and is committed to supporting the CND and WHO in their efforts improve the functionality and efficiency of the international scheduling system.

To address the profound threats posed by synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), we commend our multilateral and bilateral partners for their effective technical assistance programming. These programming initiatives and information sharing platforms are critical tools that help States Parties implement their treaty obligations.

Additionally, while international scheduling is not a silver bullet, it is an essential component of the multipronged solution set required to beat synthetic drug threats. It is for this reason, the United States provides support to help UNODC accelerate international scheduling of dangerous drugs and chemicals, as well as implementation of those scheduling decisions.

Another essential ingredient in this multipronged approach is the need for new and innovative public-private partnerships. The United States is proud to support UNODC and INCB efforts to enhance Member States' public-private partnerships in hopes of fostering greater collaboration against the world drug problem.

Among other things, this initiative will support an information-sharing platform for public and private sector entities, offering opportunities for innovative and effective solutions in curbing the demand and supply of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals. We encourage Member States to avail themselves of this valuable platform as another vehicle to better respond to illicit drug threats.

Another important consideration in addressing the threat of synthetic drugs is the need to remain committed to the treaty-mandated role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), which is to cooperate with States Parties in their efforts to achieve the aims of the drug control treaties by monitoring substances under international control. It is not the INCB's role to monitor State Party compliance with the drug conventions.

The United States fully supports the INCB in this treaty-mandated role, including to endeavor to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture, and use of drugs to an adequate amount required for medical and scientific purposes; to ensure their availability for such purposes; and prevent illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of, and illicit trafficking and use of, drugs.

This important consensus was underlined in CND resolution 62/8 and we must ensure this language is consistent across all resolutions related to combatting the world drug problem. Unfortunately, this year's UNGA Third Committee resolution on "international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem" incorrectly described the INCB's treaty-mandated role. Moving forward, we hope to make this important correction in next year's text to ensure UNGA resolutions remain relevant and consistent with the CND as the UN entity with prime responsibility for international drug control policy.

At the same time, we as the CND must take full responsibility for carrying out our treaty-mandated functions: to consider all matters pertaining to the aims of the conventions, and to make recommendations for the implementation of the aims and provisions of the conventions. The CND must be willing to exercise its policymaking authority as we work together to achieve the aims of the Conventions and to address modern drug challenges.

We also note the WHO's briefing on the outcomes of its 43rd Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) to review substances for international control, and we request that this continue to be a standing agenda item in reconvened sessions as these briefings offer clarity and enhanced understanding of the ECDD's recommendations prior to international scheduling decisions.

Finally, it is important to stress that in addition to preventing the diversion of drugs from licit sources to illicit channels, the international control framework also obligates States Parties to ensure access of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Both aspects of this mandate are equally important. We must strive to ensure that domestic laws, regulations, and practices suitably reflect this dual mandate.

In this regard, we welcome the INCB's reporting on access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

We urge Member States to consider the recommendations of the latest INCB report on this topic, especially related to the need for greater prescribing authority for nurse practitioners, to reduce overly restrictive sanctions for errors in prescribing medicine, and for increased awareness-education and training directed at professionals in the medical and pharmaceutical fields.