Friday, 12 June 2020 - The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) hosted a joint virtual high-level special event in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

PROGRAMME

Welcoming remarks by H.E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad KHAN, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and by H.E. Mr. J. Antonio MARCONDES, Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Introductory remarks by Ms. Ghada WALY, Executive Director of UNODC

Opening address by H.E. Ms. Nathalie Muylle, Minister of Employment, Economy and Consumer Affairs, Belgium

Intergovernmental perspectives by H.E. Mr. Mher MARGARYAN, Chair Commission on the Status of Women and by H.E. Ms. Elisabeth TICHY-FISSLBERGER, President of the Human Rights Council

The role of UN WOMEN by Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Voices of Vienna-based International Gender Champions by H.E. Ms. Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna) and by H.E. Ms. Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel, Permanent Representative Afghanistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Contributions from Civil Society by Ms. Penny Hill, on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and by Ms. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, on behalf of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Pre-registered interventions

Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad KHAN, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and by H.E. Mr. J. Antonio MARCONDES, Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
The Fourth World Conference on Women set out a vision and commitments for achieving gender equality in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Many of the areas highlighted in the document are central to the work of Vienna-based Commissions. 2020 was intended to be ground-breaking for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. With the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, even limited gains made in the past decades are at risk of being rolled back. The special event was organized with a view to raising awareness for the commitments made in 1995 in Beijing, in particular in relation to the work of the Vienna-based Commissions and discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and girls and further deepening pre-existing inequalities.

After introductory remarks by the two Chairs as hosts of the meeting, the UNODC Executive Director addressed the Commission. “A more inclusive world is a more resilient world. Twenty-five years after Beijing, we cannot allow COVID to hinder progress and justice,” said Ghada Waly. “In every one of our countries, societies and families, there is a mother, a daughter, a sister who needs us to stand up for her more than ever before. We must fight for her rights in the midst of a global crisis that threatens to destroy past achievements.” The meeting was also addressed by Nathalie Muylié, Minister of Employment, Economy and Consumer Affairs, in charge of Combating Poverty, Equal Opportunities, and Disabled People, Belgium; Mher Margaryan, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session; Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council; and Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director of the UN Women.

The high-level discussion further benefited from the interventions of the Vienna-based International Gender Champions, including Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Vienna; and Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations in Vienna. The UNODC Executive Director welcomed her fellow International Gender Champions, and highlighted UNODC’s work with their countries and other Member States, contributing to gender equality and mainstreaming, and responding to challenges posed by COVID.
Penny Hill from the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, also addressed the meeting.

Interventions were made by the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Norway, Namibia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Austria, Morocco, Cuba, Peru, as well as representatives from Ecuador, Germany, Australia, Tunisia and Ireland. In addition, a representative from the international Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society representatives from the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Vienna and Action for Justice, made statements.