

**Joint CND & CCPCJ Special Event on the occasion of the visit of the
President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr.
Peter Thomson, 25 November 2016, 3.30 pm**

**H.E. Ambassador Vladimir Galuska
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations
(Vienna) and Chair of the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic
Drugs**

Welcoming Remarks

Thank you Ambassador.

As Chair of the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it is my great pleasure to brief you today on the work of the Commission, in particular on our efforts in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2016 was a special year for the Commission, as it led the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in April 2016. I would like to thank again your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and the colleagues in the PGAs office for the excellent cooperation throughout the UNGASS process, which we continue today with you Mr. President, thank you very much again for joining us here.

I am proud to say that the UNGASS outcome document we negotiated here in Vienna was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly. The

document is rich and forward looking in nature and will provide an excellent basis for our work in the years to come.

In the outcome document Member States highlighted that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing. The many linkages between the work of the CND and the individual goals demonstrate this interdependence, and I would like to just highlight a few.

The CND considers the world drug problem from a broad and comprehensive perspective. This includes, and I quote the recently adopted UNGASS outcome document, “addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, including lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization, and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies”¹. Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 on ending poverty and hunger relate to ending those most basic vulnerabilities that are existential to the well-being of all people, and as such these two goals are clearly linked to the work of the Commission on the well-being of all people as well as its work on development issues in the area of drugs.

Goal 3, which asks us to “ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being for all at all ages”, provides a direct link to the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The Parties to the Convention, in the first line of its preamble, expressed concern with the “health and welfare of mankind”, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has been working tirelessly ever since to

¹ A/RES/S-30/1, 7 (h)

ensure healthy lives and to promote the well-being for all at all ages, as reiterated as a need in the 2030 Agenda.

Achieving target 3.5 of the SDGs, namely to “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”, is central to the work of the Commission and a key element of the UNGASS outcome document. We made a number of operational recommendations on how to best support a balanced, health-oriented approach to the world drug problem, by strengthening the access to comprehensive, evidence-based, and gender-responsive services for the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment of substance use disorders. The Commission also commits to ensuring the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and made specific operational recommendations as part of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document.

Contributing to ending AIDS by 2030, a segment of target 3.3, through HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs, including in prison settings, is also an important element that the Commission has repeatedly adopted resolutions on and included in the UNGASS document.

The work of the Commission also links to SDG 5 on achieving gender equality. CND emphasizes the importance of responding to the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, who are more prone to being “left behind”, including children, adolescents, vulnerable women, children, vulnerable members of society, and communities. In the UNGASS outcome document, the importance of gender-sensitive measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with

regard to the world drug problem was particularly highlighted. At the regional level, the subsidiary bodies of the CND have taken up the subject and discussed it in a workshop format during their most recent meetings.

It was the General Assembly who had asked all functional Commissions of ECOSOC to implement the 2030 Agenda within their respective areas of expertise and mandate, and the CND has immediately and pro-actively responded.

The CND and has this year provided written contributions to the ECOSOC integration segment, which dealt with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as a written contribution to the High-level Political Forum working on the theme “Ensuring that no one is left behind”.

You can find this and all other information related to the CND, including our reports and the texts of the resolutions and decisions, on the CND website, which I invite you to visit.

As is the case for the CCPCJ, we have already started the process for our submissions in 2017.

This brings us to the end of our meeting. and I would like to thank you all once more for having taken the time to meet here today.

The meeting is closed.