

High Level Political Forum 2024 – side event
“Forging synergies for sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions: The Vienna-based Commissions cooperating with others to advance SDGs 3, 16 and the 2030 Agenda”

SPEAKING NOTES

H.E Asad Alam SIAM,
First Vice-Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
at its sixty-seventh session

11 July 2024, 13:15 – 14:30 (New York Time)

SLIDE 1 – Introduction

Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this special event. I am the First Vice-Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-seventh session and will briefly speak about the avenues from which I believe the Commission can contribute to implementation of SDG3, SDG 16 and the Agenda 2030 as a whole.

SLIDE 2 – About the CND

As one of the **functional commissions** of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission is the **principal policymaking body** of the United Nations in drug related matters.

SLIDE 3 – CND Contribution to Agenda 2030

The Commission has a strong record of cooperation with other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to achieve the SDGs.

- This year marked the **mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration** (on strengthening actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments made to address and counter the world drug problem), with an end-of-cycle set in 2029.
- In February, in preparation of that mid-term review, the CND Chair, H.E. Ambassador Philbert Johnson of Ghana, held a **round table at the margins of the ECOSOC Coordination Segment**, with other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.
- The Commission places great emphasis on the principle of **“Leaving no one behind”** – for example by implementing an initiative on furthering access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.
- At the ministerial segment of its regular session in March, the Commission adopted the **High-Level Ministerial Declaration on the 2024 mid-term review**, which addresses the Agenda 2030 as a whole.

SLIDE 4 – Agenda 2030 & 2024 High-Level Declaration

You see in some text examples how closely the text of that Declaration is linked to SDGs 3 and 16, but also to a range of other SDGs by addressing, inter alia,

- measures to address transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering
- alternative development and the promotion of viable domestic economic alternatives to the illicit cultivation, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in drugs
- prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures
- access and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes,
- and cross-cutting issues such as data collection and technological innovation.

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SLIDE 5 – CND contributions to 2024 HLPF

The Commission has also provided a **substantive written contribution to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, which identified:

- **3 key areas of solutions**, namely (1) alternative development, (2) access to and availability of controlled substances and (3) facilitating dialogue on international drug policies;
- and **3 specific actions urgently needed**, including (1) improving data collection, (2) strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters and (3) addressing the environmental aspects of the world drug problem.

SLIDE 6 – CND contributions to the Summit of the Future

The Chair of the Commission submitted a **written contribution for inclusion in the Pact of the Future** stressing the **implementation of all international drug policy commitments** and in particular **access and availability** of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

SLIDE 7 – 2024 CND thematic discussions

The Commission holds an annual intersessional meeting to foster the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. The **2024 thematic discussions**, to be held from 12th to 14th November, will be the next edition and address:

- **The expanding range of drugs and synthetic opioids and non-medical use of prescription drugs;**
- **The illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, and**
- **The scheduling challenges and other substantive matters**

The agenda item on “other substantive matters”, aims to allow Member States to raise persistent, new, or emerging issues of concern.

We are looking forward to your involvement in these upcoming thematic discussions.

SLIDE 8 – Conclusion

Thank you for your attention.