

HLPF 2022 Side Event
**Leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on
drugs and crime - integrated multidisciplinary responses by the
Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice”**

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
Ms. Jo DEDEYNE-AMANN

6 July 2022, 13:30 – 15:00

President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you today during this side event on the occasion of the 2022 session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. I would like to thank **Ambassador Kelapile** and express my sincere gratitude for the continued and excellent cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

The Vienna-based Commissions, the **CCPCJ and CND**, act as principal policymaking bodies within the United Nations system that address crime and drugs, respectively, and guide international action in that regard.

The **CCPCJ reviews United Nations standards and norms**, including their use and application by Member States, and offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime. The Commission also acts as the preparatory body to the United Nations Crime Congresses and declarations adopted by the congresses are transmitted through the CCPCJ and the ECOSOC to the General Assembly for endorsement. The CCPCJ, chaired by a Bureau, counts 40 member States elected by ECOSOC.

The **Commission on Narcotic Drugs reviews and analyzes the global drug situation**, considering the interrelated issues of prevention of drug abuse, rehabilitation of drug users and supply and trafficking in illicit drugs. As the CCPCJ, it takes action through resolutions and decisions. The Commission monitors all commitments on strengthening actions at the national, regional and

international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem. The CND has 53 member States that are elected by ECOSOC and is chaired by a Bureau, including one member per Regional Group.

In spite of the COVID-19 challenges, the **Vienna-based Commissions pursued their efforts to ensure that no one is left behind**, to advance the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat to the Governing Bodies supported the CND and the CCPCJ in organizing and conducting meetings, which have taken place in hybrid or online formats to accommodate the health restrictions in place. Taking into account the increased reliance on the online channels of communication, the Secretariat developed **online e-learning tools** on the topics under the purview of the Commissions. Efforts were also deployed to strengthen the online presence and engagement in the meetings of the Commissions, and a strong commitment was made regarding the wide exchange of information and good practices.

The Secretariat has also supported the CCPCJ and CND in **collaborating more closing with other functional commissions of ECOSOC**, such as the UN Statistical Commission, present here today, and the Commission on the Status of Women. Rest assured that we will continue our efforts to fulfil the recommendations on the review of the work of its subsidiary bodies, adopted by the Council on 8 June 2022.

Thank you for your attention.