

Joint CND & CCPCJ Special Event

to honour the visit of the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly
H.E. Ms. María Fernanda ESPINOSA GARCÉS
on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Vienna International Centre

“Contributions of the Vienna Commissions to the implementation
of the 2030 Agenda”

23 August 2019, 3:00 PM
Conference Room C3, 7th floor, C-Building, VIC

H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb BAKHET
Chair of the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

President Espinosa Garcés,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our meeting today.

Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly at its 73rd session, for joining us today, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Vienna International Centre. It is also my pleasure to welcome Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, and our moderator, Director of UNIS, Mr. Martin Nesirky. And I am particularly happy to see by my side H.E. Ambassador Kupchyna, Chair of our sister Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Excellencies,

As we all know, 2019 is an important year for the Commission, as it has been leading, first the preparations for, and now the follow-up to the high-level ministerial segment, held at the sixty-second session of the CND earlier this year in March. As you are all aware, at the opening of the ministerial segment, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the 2019 Ministerial Declaration 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. With the adoption of the Declaration, Member States committed to focus on practical implementation of all joint commitments made over the past decade, including the commitments made in the outcome document of the 2016 Special Session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, for which the CND acted as a preparatory body.

The Ministerial Declaration further reiterated that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are 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 Ministerial Declaration, “ensuring that no one affected by the world drug

problem is left behind by enhancing our efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging challenges through the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem”.

As we know, **Sustainable Development Goal 3** - which asks us to “ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being for all at all ages” - very much resonates with the core mandate of the Commission. This commitment is also reiterated in the Ministerial Declaration, in which Member States reaffirmed their determination to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace and to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse.

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 prisons settings, is an important element that relates to many resolutions adopted by the Commission, among others at its 62nd session in March, and this element is also included in the Ministerial Declaration.

The work of the Commission also links to **Sustainable Development Goal 5** on achieving gender equality. CND emphasizes the importance of responding to the specific needs of vulnerable members of society and communities, who are more prone to being “left behind”, including children, adolescents, women. The Ministerial Declaration reiterated, as was also the case in the UNGASS outcome document, the importance of mainstreaming a

gender and age perspective into drug-related policies and programmes as well as reaffirmed that particular focus should be placed on women, children and youth while promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of the humanity. Let me mention in this regard the resolution adopted by the CND in 2016 on mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes.

The Commission's work is also closely connected with **Sustainable Development Goal 16** on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, an area in which we join our efforts with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, represented today by the Chair, my dear colleague H.E. Ambassador Kupchyna. In the Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to strengthening cooperation and promoting information-sharing among judicial and law enforcement authorities to respond to the challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime.

Let me also highlight that, in the Declaration, Member States resolved to review in the Commission in **2029** the progress made in implementing the policy commitments – which is **one year before the review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**. I believe that the review the Commission is to undertake in 2029 will provide a substantive and valuable input to the review of the 2030 Agenda.

As you know, the Commission also regularly provides substantive input to the General Assembly and ECOSOC on its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This year, as was the case in previous years, the Commission submitted a substantive contribution to the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which met last month under the overall theme “*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*”. Let me also recall that the Commission has, at its regular sessions, a standing agenda item under which it discusses the follow-up to and the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is very much looking forward to continuing this work, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, in the period ahead.

Thank you.