



European Union

**EU Intervention
on the occasion of the CND Intersessional Meeting
Vienna, 4 September 2014**

1. The EU is strongly committed to the CND-lead preparation of UNGASS, in cooperation with the president of the General Assembly and other UN agencies, which we consider to be an important opportunity to discuss the international drug control system, its implementation and challenges in the light of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.
2. We are at an early stage of the preparatory process and we welcome today's meeting as an opportunity to exchange views on how best to implement CND Resolution 57/5. We would like to thank the Chair and the Secretariat for the steps they have taken in preparing this meeting.
3. The EU's overall approach to this process is guided by its Strategy and Action Plan.
4. The EU Drugs Strategy is based on respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and Human Rights. It aims to protect and improve the well-being of society and of the individual, to protect public health, to offer a high level of security for the general public and to take a balanced, integrated and evidence-based approach to the drugs phenomenon, mutually reinforcing demand and supply reduction strategies.
5. The Strategy is also based on international law, the relevant UN Conventions, which provide the international legal framework for addressing the drugs phenomenon, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
6. We reiterate that our approach for UNGASS will be also based on scientific evidence-based interventions and our best practices covering prevention, treatment, risk and harm reduction, recovery, social reintegration and rehabilitation.
7. UNGASS should strongly focus on international cooperation against drugs trafficking, including judicial cooperation, public security and countering money-

laundering as well as enhancement of alternative development based on a development-oriented approach

8. The EU is opposed to the use of measures of any kind that are not respectful of the human being. In this context, we oppose the death penalty in all cases without exception, and we are consistently calling for its universal abolition. In this respect we expect that this issue will be a prominent topic for UNGASS.
9. We anticipate that the issue, of alternative measures to incarceration, will also be a prominent topic for UNGASS.
10. Finally, we expect that the discussions at UNGASS will also focus on how to further improve our responses to some of the most widely used substances, including cannabis, cocaine and heroin, the issues of New Psychoactive Substances and Amphetamine Type Stimulants and the availability of controlled medicines.
11. Within the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2016, we should have an open debate about challenges and appropriate solutions and about taking into account different policy options at national and regional level, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, while ensuring coherence and success at global level through full respect for human rights, international law, the three international drug control conventions, and relevant political documents, such as the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.
12. We also need to guarantee an inclusive preparatory process, allowing all relevant actors to contribute to the debate. While reaffirming that the CND as the central policymaking body within the UN system dealing with drug-related matters, shall lead this process, we consider that relevant UN bodies and specialised agencies, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the INCB, the WHO and regional organizations should assess and report on the impact of the international drug control system on their specific mandates. We would hope that these recommendations could be made available to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs well in advance at the UNGASS so that the analysis contained in such documents can be factored into the final assessment.
13. We underline the important role of civil society and of the scientific community in providing relevant evidence to policy-makers within the review process of world drug policy. We are also of the opinion that the participation of Members of Parliament of the UN Member States is important in this regard.
14. We are of the opinion that the organization of interactive round tables, advisory panels and expert meetings is essential for the success of the preparations of UNGASS 2016.

15. We would like to seize this opportunity to kindly request the Secretariat to circulate well in advance relevant documentation in view of the discussion in the next Intersessional Meetings, in order for Member States and regional groups to have sufficient time to analyse such documentation.

16. To conclude, we believe that any outcome document of UNGASS 2016 should be short and concise.