

## Note by the Chair of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the contribution of the Commission to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”

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### *I. INTRODUCTION*

This contribution is submitted on behalf of the H.E. Mrs. Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its 60<sup>th</sup> session, and has been prepared in close coordination with the Extended Bureau of the Commission, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council inviting the Commission to provide substantive inputs to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC at UN headquarters in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017, on the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.<sup>1</sup>

This contribution also includes information on the action taken by the Commission at its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary session, held from 13 to 17 March 2017 and attended by over 1700 participants, representing nearly 130 Member States as well as representatives of UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations and a broad spectrum of non-governmental organizations.

#### *1.1. Background*

The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS), held from 19 to 21 April 2016, for which the CND led the preparatory process, took place at a historical juncture and highlighted the important linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Commission.

In the UNGASS outcome document, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,<sup>2</sup> negotiated by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and adopted by the General Assembly, Member States welcomed the 2030 Agenda and noted that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing.<sup>3</sup> **As the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, the CND was encouraged to contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, within its mandates, bearing in mind the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them and to make that information available to the high-level political forum through the appropriate institutional framework, taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1.**<sup>4</sup>

Following the adoption of the UNGASS outcome document and further to operative paragraph 9 of the outcome document, **the CND has initiated in autumn 2016 an intensive follow-up process, based on the principles of comprehensiveness and inclusiveness.** A core part of that immediate follow-up process were the thematic discussions held in October 2016 and in January 2017 on each of the seven thematic areas of the outcome document, focusing on the implementation of the operational recommendations and thereby promoting a comprehensive, integrated, balanced approach to the international drug problem.<sup>5</sup> Supported by H.E. Ambassador Moitinho de Almeida, the CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters, the Commission has been discussing how to operationalize the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document, including by providing guidance and support to UNODC and working in cooperation with all other relevant

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<sup>1</sup> See also CND’s input provided to the 2016 High-level Political Forum on the theme “Ensuring that no one is left behind”.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, preambular paragraphs 16 and 21.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 6 (d).

<sup>5</sup> See “Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters - Thematic discussions on UNGASS Follow-up (October 2016)” (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.12) and “Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters - Thematic discussions on UNGASS Follow-up (January 2017)” (E/CN.7/2017/CRP.1).

stakeholders, in supporting the implementation of these recommendations. In this context, the contribution of the Commission to the implementation of the SDGs is being highlighted. More information can be found on the following website: [www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org).

At its 60<sup>th</sup> session, the Commission further unanimously adopted a resolution entitled “*Preparations for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019*”<sup>6</sup>, tabled by the Chair on behalf of the Commission, by which the Commission, among other things, charted a course to 2019, deciding to hold a series of intersessional meetings between now and 2019; to hold a ministerial segment during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the CND in 2019; to encourage relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional organizations to make available relevant information to the Commission for it to enhance coherence within the United Nations system and to encourage the active participation of civil society in its work in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and with the established practice of the Commission. In addition, Member States reiterated that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address and counter the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing, underlined that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals related to its mandate, and in this regard decided to continue to provide input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including by providing relevant data, whereby implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly may contribute to the attainment of the related Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>7</sup>

In line with the comprehensive and inclusive approach taken in the follow-up to the UNGASS, the Commission adopted at its 60<sup>th</sup> session a resolution entitled “*Intensifying coordination and cooperation among United Nations entities and relevant domestic sectors, including the health, education and criminal justice sectors, to address and counter the world drug problem*”<sup>8</sup>, recognizing that addressing and countering the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, scientific, evidence-based, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach.

## ***1.2. Working in partnership – in implementation of SDG 17***

The CND has been and will continue to invite **relevant UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as a large group of non-governmental organizations** to all its meetings and encourage them to actively contribute to its work. In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna who are not in a position to participate in person, **modern communication tools are used to enable remote participation** such as webcasting of meeting and displaying of pre-recorded video-messages. In the above mentioned resolution on “*Preparations for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019*”<sup>9</sup>, the Commission decided to continue that follow-up process in an inclusive, transparent and comprehensive manner and making use of tools to enhance remote participation.

There is a **Youth Forum** and a **Scientific Forum** held in parallel to the main March meeting and representatives of those fora inform the CND about the outcome of their respective meetings, for the CND to use that input for its own deliberations.

The CND is has been enhancing its **cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission**. Together with the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** a special event was organized in November 2016, at the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. Thomson, President of the General

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<sup>6</sup> See E/CN.7/2017/L.9/Rev.1.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> See E/CN.7/2017/L.8/Rev.1.

<sup>9</sup> See E/CN.7/2017/L.9/Rev.1.

Assembly at its 71<sup>st</sup> session, during which participants discussed the contributions that can be made by the Vienna-based functional commissions to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Together with the **Commission on the Status of Women** a joint event was held in December 2016, at the occasion of the opening of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, showcasing efforts undertaken by both functional commissions in support of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular **Sustainable Development Goal 5** on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. During the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the CND, one of the vice-chairs of the **Statistical Commission** addressed the CND via video-message, informing the CND about the outcome of the discussion on “Statistics on drugs and drug use” held at the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission and reiterated its readiness to work with the CND thereby recommending that the CND would consider the roadmap to improve drug statistics, which had been submitted to the Statistical Commission, to ensure harmonization with the policy directions of the CND. The Commission is also interested in **enhancing cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including with the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development.**

More information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>.

## **II. RESPONSE ON THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:**

### **II.1. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level**

\* The **relationship between economic development and drugs** is particularly evident in the case of the **illicit cultivation of drug crops**. In rural areas, socioeconomic elements such as poverty and a lack of sustainable livelihoods represent negative risk factors that might lead farmers to engage in illicit cultivation. Alongside other development issues linked to security and governance, they can be enabling elements of large-scale illicit cultivation.<sup>10</sup>

\* **Poverty** also has **strong links with drug abuse**. The brunt of the drug abuse problem is borne by people who are poor in relation to the societies in which they live. Higher socioeconomic groups may have a greater propensity to initiate drug abuse than lower socioeconomic groups, but it is the lower socioeconomic groups that pay the higher price as they are more likely to become drug dependent.<sup>11</sup> Poverty, unemployment, poor education, domestic violence and social disadvantage are vulnerabilities linked to social development that can be conducive to drug use.<sup>12</sup>

**Women, children and youth affected by drug dependence are particularly vulnerable to deprivation, prone to stigmatization and exposed to particular negative risk factors.** In General Assembly resolution 71/211, Member States were encouraged to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive policies and programmes that, by fostering social development, are aimed at the prevention of crime and violence and that address the multiple factors that contribute to marginalization, crime and victimization.

In many countries women offenders who are imprisoned for drug-related offences make up a large proportion of the female prison population and face particular hardship when criminal justice systems are not yet equipped to cater their specific needs.<sup>13</sup> Specialized treatment programmes that take into account prior victimization and the special needs of pregnant women and women with children are often unavailable.<sup>14</sup> Many children and young people with drug use disorders who are

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<sup>10</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> See UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment, p. 116.

<sup>14</sup> See UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment, pp. 13-14, 115-118.

dealt with exclusively by the criminal justice system rather than by the health and child protection systems, are more vulnerable to become victims of crime and to commit crimes themselves.

Accordingly, the CND has endeavoured **to consider cross-cutting issues related to the world drug problem in a broader development context as well as links between drug-related issues and achieving sustainable development**. Already in 2009, at the time of the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States noted, *inter alia*, that vulnerabilities undermining human development, such as poverty and social marginalization, should also be considered by States in their drug demand reduction interventions.<sup>15</sup> In the Political Declaration, Member States also highlighted that interventions too often targeted the general population at large with a single standard approach and did not provide specialized programmes tailored to vulnerable members of society with specific needs.<sup>16</sup> In its efforts to ensure that “no one is left behind” in addressing and countering the world drug problem, the Commission has emphasized the importance of responding to the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, including children, adolescents, vulnerable youth, women, including pregnant women, people with medical and psychiatric co-morbidities, ethnic minorities and socially marginalized individuals, recognizing the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes. Also in the UNGASS outcome document, Member States devoted an entire chapter of the UNGASS outcome document to operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues; drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities.<sup>17</sup>

\* The need to **prevent and mitigate the criminal proceeds generated by the illegal drug trade** – which enrich transnational criminal groups, third party facilitators, and terrorist networks alike – is a policy area which cuts across the sustainable development agenda. In General Assembly resolution 70/1, Member States highlighted the importance of building peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. In this regard, Member States identified violence, insecurity and injustice as factors giving rise to inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows.<sup>18</sup> Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, is central to the work of the Commission, including in relation to alternative development efforts. Among the targets associated with **Sustainable Development Goal 16**, those related to the rule of law and access to justice and reducing violence, economic crime (corruption and bribery), organized crime and illicit financial flows all have significant links with the world drug problem and with the response to it.

The illicit drug trade finances transnational organised crime, terrorist groups, giving each the means to engage in corruption, exploitation and extortion and to build and perpetuate criminal markets, conflict<sup>19</sup> and cycles of corruption. The impact is not only on safety and security, but on institutional integrity, the ability to govern and implement economic and social policy. Money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which, in some cases, go hand in hand with the illicit drug trade, undermine financial integrity and the potential for financial inclusion. Combatting criminal proceeds is a key element of the work of the CND. The Commission has worked to ensure that these issues are dealt with in a cross-cutting manner so that its work in addressing criminal proceeds has a positive impact on goals and targets across the Sustainable Development Agenda.<sup>20</sup> At its recent session in March 2017, the CND confirmed its commitment to **enhanced capacity building of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies, to counter illicit drug trafficking through**

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<sup>15</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C; see also A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A; paragraph 21 of the Political Declaration .

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, paragraph 13 of the Plan of Action.

<sup>17</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, operative paragraph 4.

<sup>18</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>19</sup> See, for example, Security Council resolution 2274 (2016).

<sup>20</sup> See, for example, Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 58/6 and 53/3.

**training**<sup>21</sup>, with a view to strengthening the capacity to identify, disrupt and dismantle criminal groups operating transnationally that are involved in any activities related to the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the diversion of their precursors and other drug-related criminal activities;

In its resolution 51/11, the CND focused on the **links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking**, noted that reducing the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms was a major component of the efforts to reduce the illicit drug supply in some regions of the world, and encouraged Member States to take adequate measures to prevent the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking. Moreover, in the *UNGASS outcome document*, Member States stressed the need to address the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and recommended, *inter alia*, the adoption of national, regional and international measures and, as appropriate, rules and regulations to prevent transnational organized criminal networks involved in drug-related activities from trafficking and acquiring firearms and other related material.

Both, in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action<sup>22</sup> and the UNGASS outcome document<sup>23</sup>, Member States recognized that transit States faced multifaceted challenges and that it was important to enhance their capacity to address and counter the world drug problem. With its resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.2/Rev.2, adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission in March 2017, the CND called for increased international cooperation to assist the States most affected by the **illicit transit of drugs**, especially developing countries, and acknowledged that those States have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from reaching end markets.

\* The experience and expertise of UNODC, and its network of field offices, remain key resources for Member States to help make their communities safer from illicit drugs and organized crime through integrated national, regional and inter-regional strategies. In **formulating the mandates that guide UNODC's work and the recommendations for action by Member States**, the CND has focused on the need to adopt **integrated approaches** and to equip States that face difficulties with **capacity building support and technical assistance** in order to respond to these growing threats, with a view to leaving no one behind. Executing its function as governing body of UNODC, the CND has recently recommended to the Economic and Social Council to extend the mandate<sup>24</sup> of the Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which discusses programmatic aspects of the work of the Office.

UNODC, in dialogue with Member States, takes a multi-pronged approach to working on drug demand reduction and related health issues, including: supporting a balanced public health-oriented approach to the drug problem; working to end discrimination against, and promote interventions for, people who use drugs and strengthening the access to comprehensive, evidence-based, and gender-responsive services for prevention of drug use and treatment of drug use disorders, including as an alternative to conviction or punishment. UNODC is also mandated to promote HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs and people who are in prisons, contributing towards ending AIDS by 2030.

UNODC has also increased its efforts in the area of facilitating judicial and law enforcement international cooperation in countering transnational organized crime, including its profitable drug trafficking activities, by means of strengthening the capacity and integrity of criminal justice authorities in investigating transnational organized criminal networks, exchanging information and ensuring effective prosecutions, including along the most well-known trafficking routes.

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<sup>21</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions E/CN.7/2017/L.13/Rev.1.

<sup>22</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), paragraph 33 of the Political Declaration.

<sup>23</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preambular part.

<sup>24</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision E/CN.7/2017/L.4/Rev.1.

## *II.2. Gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges, valuable lessons learned on ensuring that no one is left behind and emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle*

\* Promoting **alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development**, contributes to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world and to implementing the 2030 Agenda, in particular its **Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2**. In ensuring that no one is left behind, the work of the Commission focuses on addressing existing gaps and drug-related socioeconomic challenges related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, as highlighted in the UNGASS outcome document.

Efforts to eliminate illicit crop cultivation can impact the income source and employment opportunities of farmers and farm labourers. Research has also shown that such efforts have positive development outcomes in the affected communities only if they include development measures to ensure alternative livelihoods and restore security and rule of law. Development programmes can reduce the vulnerability of farmers to engaging in illicit cultivation and production and can bring sustainable reduction in drug cultivation. However, if development interventions are not sensitive to the vulnerabilities of communities to specific drug issues, they may inadvertently trigger dynamics that increase illicit cultivation.<sup>25</sup> The scale of alternative development assistance in some countries is not sufficient to meet the needs of local communities in some regions. Urgent action is required to continue creating sustainable livelihood conditions and overcome the challenges created by difficult conditions.

It is also important to include alternative development as part of national development plans and policies, involving coordination between relevant governmental agencies, and support from technical assistance providers. Empowering local communities through long-term alternative development initiatives and working in collaboration with local authorities, international organizations, and donors, is crucial as well.

The UNGASS outcome document recommended that Member States encourage **the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development**, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies.<sup>26</sup>

In the UNGASS outcome document Member States further recognized that **the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach**<sup>27</sup>, thereby encouraging the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.<sup>28</sup> In the preparations for and follow-up to the

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<sup>25</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

<sup>26</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 7(b).

<sup>27</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, 4preambular part.

<sup>28</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 6(e).

special session, the Commission has promoted a comprehensive and inclusive approach, valuing the expertise the different stakeholders can contribute. Based on this principle of common and shared responsibility, the private sector represents a key stakeholder in the international community's joint efforts to address and counter the world drug problem. Public-private partnerships and voluntary cooperation with industry are key elements in many fields of addressing the world drug problem, including with a view to preventing scheduled substances from being diverted into illicit channels. Private sector involvement is also crucial for implementing long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development.

UNODC for example facilitates, in close cooperation with governments and the private sector, the sale of alternative development products on national and international markets, with the private sector becoming an integral component of the strategy, not only in terms of implementing alternative development, but also through its broader investment in economic and social infrastructure.

, Member States, in the UNGASS outcome document, recommended to improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to better measure and evaluate the impact of such crimes and to further enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses in that regard.<sup>29</sup> In General Assembly resolution 71/211, Member States reiterated that commitment.<sup>30,31</sup>

The UNGASS outcome document further recommended that Member States promote research by States, including through cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, academic institutions and civil society, to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation, taking into account local and regional specificities, and to improve impact assessment of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of these programmes, including through the use of relevant human development indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>32</sup>

With equal attention paid to all seven thematic areas of the UNGASS outcome document, the Commission also addresses the above mentioned gaps in its UNGASS follow-up process, discussing the importance of including alternative development strategies in drug control policies, embedded in a broader development perspective, and of promoting policies in the field of alternative development that are based on the United Nations Guidelines on Alternative Development and in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At its 60<sup>th</sup> session, the Commission reiterated its commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the production of, and trafficking in, drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and **sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes** and it urged Member States to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes<sup>33</sup>.

\* In furtherance of a **people-centred approach to addressing the drug problem**, which addresses **Sustainable Development Goal 3**, the Commission has *inter alia*, at its 60<sup>th</sup> session reiterated its commitments made in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action to “promote, develop,

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<sup>29</sup> see General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 3(u).

<sup>30</sup> see General Assembly resolution 71/211, operative paragraph 79.

<sup>31</sup> “Reference is made in this regard to the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on an international road map to improve drug statistics prepared in consultation with the World Customs Organization, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the World Health Organization.” Contribution received from Colombia.

<sup>32</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 7(g).

<sup>33</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.5/Rev.1.

review or strengthen effective, comprehensive, integrated **drug demand reduction programmes**, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services.<sup>34</sup> In this regard, the Commission also discusses in its UNGASS follow up work how it can promote the implementation of the operational recommendations relating to **prevention of drug abuse; treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; as well as the prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases**.

The CND at its 60<sup>th</sup> session in March 2017 called upon Member States, in accordance with national and domestic legislation, to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate scientific evidence-based **community, family and school age and gender sensitive drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents** and encouraged Member States to use the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and strategies, as well as a number of other UNODC technical assistance tools for these purposes.<sup>35</sup>

In another resolution, the Commission called upon Member States to develop **prevention and treatment models as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences associated with the use of new psychoactive substances**<sup>36</sup>. The challenge of NPS has been a particular concern of the Commission in recent years, in particular with regard to the health of young people, and at its March 2017 session it brought under international control a number of those substances that pose significant health risks<sup>37</sup>.

In ensuring that no one is left behind, the Commission's work also involves addressing stigmatization and discrimination of people living with or affected by HIV, including people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs. At UNGASS Member States reiterated their commitment to end by 2030 the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as combat viral hepatitis, other communicable diseases, inter alia, among people who use drugs, including people who inject drugs.<sup>38</sup> At its session in March, the Commission further noted with concern a downward trend in the **availability of resources and funding for the global HIV/AIDS response**, in particular for programmes targeting the prevention and treatment of HIV among people who use drugs. The Commission urged Member States to ensure continued political commitment to effectively addressing and countering HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs and to continue to provide resources to this end<sup>39</sup>.

\* In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States also noted with concern that the **availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering**, remained low to non-existent in many countries of the world and highlighted the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, within the framework of national legal system, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking in order to fulfil the aim and objectives of the three international drug control conventions.<sup>40</sup>

Focused on the implementation of the operational recommendations, during the CND post-UNGASS thematic discussions in October 2016 and in January 2017, delegations shared experiences, lessons

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<sup>34</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), Political Declaration; paragraph 21.

<sup>35</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/2017/L11/Rev.1.

<sup>36</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.6/Rev.1.

<sup>37</sup> See Information to be contained in the report on the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (see E/CN.7/2017/L.1/Add.3).

<sup>38</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preambular part.

<sup>39</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/017/L.12/Rev.1.

<sup>40</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preambular paragraph 5



learnt as well as discussed action that could be taken by the Commission with a view to ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

### *II.3. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required*

The High-level Political Forum could be very effective in advocating for the strengthening of the mechanisms for data collection and programme development within the ECOSOC system. In doing so, the High-level Political Forum can provide an **opportunity to showcase the value and relevance of the work of the CND to the 2030 Agenda** and the **support that UNODC can provide to Member States** in that regard, **in close cooperation with all other relevant stakeholders**.

The High-level Political Forum could **support the CND in increasing the visibility for the work it is undertaking**. In line with the 2030 Agenda provisions on multi-stakeholder engagement, **support could be provided by the HLPF to the CND**, as the central policymaking body in the United Nations system for drug-related matters, **in the efforts undertaken by the CND to strengthen its coordination** with other relevant UN bodies **and to further enhance the involvement of all interested stakeholders** in the work of the Commission.

### *II.4. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind*

The work of the CND is currently **focused on the implementation of the commitments made at UNGASS** to address and counter the world drug problem, encouraging stakeholders to share experiences, lessons learnt and to inform about concrete activities to jointly put these commitments into practice. Further to the thematic discussions held in October 2016 and January 2017, the CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters has proposed to establish a work-plan for the second half of 2017, outlining targeted meetings during which each of the seven thematic areas would be addressed in a more detailed manner. In resolution L 9, entitled “*Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019*”, referred to above<sup>41</sup>, the Commission decided to continue to hold intersessional meetings to support Member States in the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and the sharing of best practices corresponding to the seven thematic areas of the outcome document, recognizing that the implementation of the outcome document contributes to the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement.

As called for in the UNGASS outcome document and as showcased during the CND-led UNGASS follow up process, Member States are committed to **implement the operational recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document** and are committed to **support UNODC in leading a coordinated response of the UN system and in strengthening its cooperation with other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in the work undertaken to assist Member States with the implementation of the following recommendations:**

- Member States reiterated their commitment to take measures to promote the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitate healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse;<sup>42</sup>
- Member States reiterated their commitment to improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment

<sup>41</sup> See E/CN.7/2017/L.9/Rev.1..

<sup>42</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 1

and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control, and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking;<sup>43</sup>

- Member States reiterated their commitment to protect the safety and assure the security of individuals, societies and communities by intensifying efforts to prevent and counter the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as drug-related crime and violence, through *inter alia*, more effective drug-related crime prevention and law enforcement measures, as well as by addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities, mindful of their social and economic causes and consequences;<sup>44</sup>
- Member States reiterated their commitment to respect, protect and promote all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies;<sup>45</sup>
- Member States reiterated their commitment to strengthen their efforts in addressing and countering emerging and persistent challenges and threats of all aspects of the world drug problem and effectively respond to the evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances through comprehensive, integrated and balanced drug control policies and programmes that take into account their transnational implications and that are in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and to strengthen their international, regional and sub-regional cooperation;<sup>46</sup>
- Member States reiterated their commitment to support efforts at all levels, based on common and shared responsibility, to effectively address and counter the world drug problem and to enhance international cooperation<sup>47</sup>;
- Member States reiterated their commitment to address drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production and trafficking of drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies<sup>48</sup>.

### **III. LINKAGES BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND SPECIFIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS UNDER IN-DEPTH REVIEW**

#### **III. 1. Sustainable Development Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Sustainable Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

The Commission has guided the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the action taken by Member States in areas that are relevant ending poverty and hunger for many years including by adopting resolutions on **alternative development**.<sup>49</sup>

In resolution 2016/19, adopted upon the recommendation of the CND, the Economic and Social Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and stressed that the implementation

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid., paragraph 2

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., paragraph 3

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., paragraph 4

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., paragraph 5

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., paragraph 6

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., paragraph 7.

<sup>49</sup> See, for example, General Assembly resolution 68/196, Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/19 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/6, 55/4, 55/8, 56/16, 57/1 and 58/4.

of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development would contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained therein. In the same resolution, the Council called upon Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, that target the illicit cultivation of drug crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of drug crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen the resilience of communities. In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States reiterated their commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies.<sup>50,51</sup>

The operational recommendations in the UNGASS outcome document encourage the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development as well the elaboration and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities. The outcome document further encourages the development of viable economic alternatives, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services.

With its 2017 resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.5/Rev.1, the Commission reaffirmed the commitment to the Guiding Principles and urged Member States to “consider **strengthening the development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes** so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a 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”.<sup>52</sup>

UNODC has been providing **technical assistance to support alternative livelihoods and income generation efforts**, in partnership with local communities and national authorities. Ongoing initiatives include alternative development projects focusing on the commercialization of licit products, and building the capacity of farmer associations. UNODC is developing a Global Programme on Alternative Development and Sustainable Livelihoods to be even better equipped to assist requesting Member States with policy advice and technical assistance to implement the operational recommendations made in the UNGASS outcome document.

### ***III.2. Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages***

\* The Commission has undertaken significant efforts towards **ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages**. Over the years, it has adopted many resolutions that support the implementation of **target 3.5** (Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol) on topics such as, for example, the **development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders** (*resolution 59/4*), **promoting prevention strategies and policies** (*resolution 59/6*), **supporting the availability, accessibility and diversity of scientific evidence-based treatment**

<sup>50</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 4.

<sup>51</sup> “General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 4, is related to Sustainable Development Goal 1, target 1.4, which in turn seeks to ensure that all men and women, in particular that the poor and vulnerable, have the same rights” Contribution received from Colombia.

<sup>52</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.5/Rev.1, OP 5.

**and care for children and young people with substance use disorders (resolution 58/2), and promoting the protection of children and young people, with particular reference to the illicit sale and purchase of internationally or nationally controlled substances and of new psychoactive substances via the Internet (resolution 58/3)<sup>53</sup>, as well as recently, on preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances (E/CN.7/2017/L.6/Rev.1) and promoting scientific evidence-based community, family and school programmes and strategies for the purpose of preventing drug use among children and adolescents (E/CN.7/2017/L.11/Rev.1).<sup>54</sup>**

Furthermore, the use of appropriate policy and strategy tools is key to improving public health and well-being of all. Drug control policies that are implemented in line with the three international drug control conventions and the guidance provided by the Commission, ECOSOC, and the General Assembly, notably in the UNGASS outcome document, emphasize “the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime”. In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States recognized the importance of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach and that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity.”<sup>55</sup>

In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States further highlighted the importance of strengthening national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and underscored the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models and supporting scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances, noting the importance of preventing the diversion and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes; thereby supporting the implementation of target 3.D “Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”.<sup>56</sup>

**UNODC has been implementing training initiatives for the prevention of illicit drug use and for the treatment of drug dependence, including for direct beneficiaries such as students, parents, teachers, community leaders and health service providers. Through drug dependence treatment initiatives, UNODC has supported civil society groups in the area of social reinsertion of vulnerable individuals who undergo a course of treatment against drug dependence - beneficiaries include adolescents, youth involved in gangs, juvenile offenders, women and population/personnel at prisons (targets 3.3 and 3.5).**

The prison population is a group which requires special attention in the provision of prevention and treatment services. Efforts of the international community towards ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages, also address the health and well-being of prisoners, including those affected by drug dependence. In the *UNGASS outcome document*, Member States highlighted the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community.<sup>57</sup> The outcome further underscores the commitment to enhance access to treatment of drug use disorders for those incarcerated and promote effective oversight and encourage, as appropriate, self-

<sup>53</sup> See also CND resolutions 58/7, 57/2, 57/3, 57/4, 57/7, 56/6, 56/8, 56/9, 56/13, 55/2, 55/10, 54/5, 53/1, 53/2, 53/9 and 53/10.

<sup>54</sup> See also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 58/7, 57/2, 57/3, 57/4, 57/7, 56/6, 56/8, 56/9, 56/13, 55/2, 55/10, 54/5, 53/1, 53/2, 53/9, 53/10, E/CN.7/2017/L.6/Rev.1 and E/CN.7/2017/L.11/Rev.1 .

<sup>55</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preambular paragraph 6.

<sup>56</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 5.

<sup>57</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 4 (b).

assessments of confinement facilities, taking into consideration the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).<sup>58</sup>

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which represent an essential update of the original rules adopted at the very first Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Geneva in 1955, state that prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services, ensuring continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence.<sup>59</sup>

\* In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States **reiterated their commitment to ending, by 2030, the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as to combating viral hepatitis and other communicable diseases** *inter alia*, among people who use drugs, including people who inject drugs. The work of the Commission in supporting Member States with UNGASS follow up hence also contributes to reaching **target 3.3** (“By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases”).

Nearly 10 per cent of global HIV infections are due to unsafe injecting drug use, with this figure rising to 30 per cent if sub-Saharan Africa is excluded. Among prison populations the prevalence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C viruses and tuberculosis is 2 to 10 times higher than in the general population, worldwide. A **co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNODC is the convening agency for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among people who use drugs and ensures access to comprehensive HIV services for people in prisons.** The **UNODC global HIV programme** supports countries to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for people who use drugs and for people in prisons. UNODC supports governments and civil society organisations to implement large-scale and wide-ranging evidence-informed and human rights-based interventions. The CND at its 60<sup>th</sup> session requested UNODC to continue this work to prevent new HIV infections among people who use drugs, and to provide HIV treatment, care and support to people who use drugs, including in prison settings, thereby implementing the interventions contained in the *Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*<sup>60</sup>.

\* In terms of achieving, *inter alia*, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all (**target 3.8**), **the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes** has been another priority for the Commission. The Commission, at numerous occasions, underlined the importance of enhancing national efforts and international cooperation to ensure the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering.<sup>61</sup>

Member States devoted a **stand-alone section to the availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes** in the UNGASS outcome document, thereby reiterating their strong commitment to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by, among others, appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control, and international cooperation

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<sup>58</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 4 (m).

<sup>59</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/175, Annex, Rule 24.

<sup>60</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/2017/L.12/Rev.1.

<sup>61</sup> See, for example, CND resolution 54/6; Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the CND of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; and General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex.

and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking.<sup>62</sup>

UNODC partners in particular with the WHO to support Member States to ensure the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes.<sup>63</sup>

### *III.3. Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

**Addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies**, has been highlighted by the Commission in a *number of resolutions*,<sup>64</sup> as well as policy documents, such as the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs<sup>65</sup> as well as the UNGASS outcome document.

In its resolution 59/5, entitled “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes”, the Commission underlined that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and called upon Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes in full conformity with the international drug control conventions that take into account the specific needs of women and girls, including the need for access to health services developed specifically for their needs, and the needs of women who are the sole or primary caretakers of minors and others.

In the same resolution, the CND urged Member States to implement broad-based programmes aimed at preventing women and girls from being used as couriers for trafficking in drugs and requested UNODC to assist States in developing such programmes to counter the use and participation of women in the illicit drug trade and to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in all its practices, policies and programmes related to the world drug problem.

At the regional level, the **subsidiary bodies of the Commission** have made specific recommendations for action to **mainstream gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes**. They encouraged governments to collect and analyse gender and age disaggregated data; to develop and implement policies tailored to the specific needs of female drug users in order to increase their access to treatment for drug use disorders; to ensure non-discriminatory access to health-care services for women, including in prison; and to ensure proportional sentencing and to develop and implement gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment, in line with national laws and international instruments such as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).<sup>66</sup>

In line with the CND mandates and guidance, **UNODC’s global work on the prevention of drug use and the treatment of drug use disorders** specifically addresses the unique needs of women and girls, in compliance with human rights obligations through the publication of guidance documents, training of professionals and the implementation of gender-based services meeting the needs of children, adolescent girls and women.<sup>67</sup> The Office also supports national efforts to promote gender equality in the criminal justice system, focusing on preventing and responding to violence against women and on promoting the rights of women offenders and prisoners. Particular attention is dedicated to the rights and vulnerabilities of women with substance use disorders and women in conflict with the law for drug offences. UNODC has endeavoured to address gender-specific needs through initiatives that empower girls in the development and implementation of drug abuse

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<sup>62</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 2.

<sup>63</sup> See E/CN.7/2016/CRP.1-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.1 “Contribution by UNODC in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a proposed role of the CND and CCPCJ in reviewing the progress of the SDGs”, page 3.

<sup>64</sup> See also, for example, CND resolutions 59/6, 55/5 and 52/1.

<sup>65</sup> See Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the CND of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

<sup>66</sup> See UNODC/HONLAC/26/6 and UNODC/HONLAP/40/6.

<sup>67</sup> See E/CN.7/2016/CRP.1-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.1 “Contribution by UNODC in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a proposed role of the CND and CCPCJ in reviewing the progress of the SDGs”, page 4.

prevention activities. Universal access to healthcare and social reinsertion programmes for both women and men alike through drug use treatment initiatives should be ensured.

**Activities specifically empowering women and women organisations in local productive activities and community involvement**, including the empowerment of women to reaching organisational leadership positions (i.e. alternative development products) should also be considered. In this regard, UNODC's work in the area of **alternative development** is also contributing to the achievement of SDG 5. For example, in Myanmar a gender baseline was developed to guide gender mainstreaming in alternative development work and to ensure that the impact of gender-related programme interventions is properly documented (as mandated by resolution 59/5).

As mentioned above, to further advance gender mainstreaming in its work, the **CND has enhanced its cooperation with the Commission on the Status of Women**. The Commissions held a **joint event entitled "Jointly supporting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda" in December 2016**, showcasing efforts undertaken by both functional commissions in support of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 5, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (more information on <http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/event/2016/cnd-csw-joint-sdg-event.html>). This type of cooperation recognizes the inter-linkages between the work of the Commissions and increases coherence in efforts to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

#### ***III.4 Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation***

In the *UNGASS outcome document*, Member States encouraged the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support for initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies; thereby supporting the implementation of SDG 9 and its targets.<sup>68</sup> In addition, Member states were encouraged to develop viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities.<sup>69</sup>

#### ***III.5. Sustainable Development Goal 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries***

In the *UNGASS outcome document*, Member States further addressed the importance of **preventing social marginalization and promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encouraging drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity**.<sup>70</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 10, reducing the inequality within and among countries, and in particular target 10.3 highlights the need to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

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<sup>68</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 7 (b).

<sup>69</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 7 (j).

<sup>70</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 1 (j).

Marginalization often affects people with drug use disorders, making their recovery and social integration more challenging.<sup>71</sup> In some societies, the stigma of being drug users and discrimination drive people who use drugs to the margins of society. People with drug use disorders are frequently distanced from their communities and families, which can also negatively impact employment opportunities and social relationships, leading to a loss of human capital, as people who use drugs are unable to contribute to or participate in the community.<sup>72</sup>

With a view to supporting the **implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 10**, UNODC supports targeted advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination and to promote, gender and age responsive approaches to drug use, supports Member States in reviewing, adapting, developing and implementing effective legislation and policies as well as in developing and implementing comprehensive evidence-informed strategies and programmes.

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<sup>71</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2016 (Vienna).

<sup>72</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2016 (Vienna).