



**Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
2018 Theme: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”**

**I. Introduction**

This contribution is submitted by **H.E. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its 61st session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council inviting the Commission to provide substantive inputs to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC at UN headquarters in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018, on the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

**II. Response to Questions from the Economic and Social Council**

*(a) an assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level:*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) recalled the General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and recognized that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing. It has a standing item on its agenda, during which it considers the “follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

This important relationship has also been recognized in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS) in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”<sup>1</sup>, negotiated by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and adopted by the General Assembly.

In its resolution 60/1 the CND also resolved that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action<sup>2</sup>, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 and the UNGASS outcome document represent the commitments made by the international community over the preceding decade to

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1

<sup>2</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), Political Declaration;

addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem, and recognized that those documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing<sup>3</sup>.

The special session took place shortly after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States welcomed the 2030 Agenda and highlighted the important linkages between the Agenda and the work of the Commission. Given the complementarity and mutually reinforcing nature, efforts to effectively address the world drug problem support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As such, the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level relating to drugs matters is addressed through the implementation of the comprehensive set of recommendations put forth in the UNGASS outcome document. The targets and goals set in 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem are also relevant to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At its 60th anniversary session in 2017, 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<sup>4</sup>.

The CND considers the world drug problem on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced approach, also taking into account relevant drug-related socioeconomic issues, 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 interventions. The principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” is a prerequisite to a “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The need to include provisions for vulnerable members of society in all aspects of addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues has been widely recognized<sup>5</sup>.

The relationship between economic development and drugs is 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.<sup>6</sup> At its 61st session in March 2018, the Commission adopted a resolution entitled: “Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues”, by which it, amongst others, underlined the need for long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives in particular alternative development, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination.

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<sup>3</sup> See CND resolution 60/1, operative paragraph 1.

<sup>4</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1

<sup>5</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapters 4, 5 and 7.

<sup>6</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

Addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues is not limited to rural areas and crop cultivation. The development of viable economic alternatives is also needed to address other illicit drug-related activities, including in urban areas. In resolution 61/6, the Commission encouraged the development of viable economic alternatives 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 encouraged “the consideration of 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”.

Already in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States found that measures were often planned and carried out in isolation. The UNGASS 2016 outcome document encourages states to consider ways to strengthen the development perspective within the framework of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes, in order to address the causes and related consequences of cultivation, manufacture, the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, including through, 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. Addressing those risk factors can contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies<sup>7</sup>. Strengthening a development perspective can help tackle the causes and consequences of illicit drug production and trafficking.

Commitments have been made to intensify efforts to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment and social marginalization, which make people vulnerable to exploitation by criminal organizations involved in drug-related crime.<sup>8</sup> In General Assembly resolution 72/198, Member States were encouraged to develop and implement 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.

Poverty itself has strong links also with drug use and drug use disorders. The drug abuse problem places a heavy burden on people who are poor in relation to the societies in which they live. Higher socioeconomic groups may have a greater propensity to initiate drug use 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 or develop other drug use disorders.<sup>9</sup> Poverty, unemployment, poor education, domestic violence and social disadvantage are vulnerabilities linked to social development that can be conducive to drug use.<sup>10</sup>

The Commission is convinced that drug use prevention based on scientific evidence and on a rigorous process of adaptation to socioeconomic circumstances “can be a cost-effective approach to preventing the illicit use of drugs and other risk behaviour and is therefore a cost-effective investment in the well-being of all, including children, adolescents, youth, women,

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<sup>7</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 7.

<sup>8</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 5.

<sup>9</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

families, communities and societies”<sup>11</sup>. In its resolution 61/4, the Commission has reiterated its commitments made in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action to “promote, develop, 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 aimed at promoting health and social well-being of individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole”. In resolution 61/2, a strong commitment was made to “Strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings” and Member States were encouraged to “enhance efforts to develop or update drug prevention curricula and to promote policies and tools that target relevant ages and risk factors in multiple settings, and to integrate them, as appropriate, into all levels of education with a view to advancing drug prevention in educational settings as part of a balanced national drug policy”.

Sufficient attention is also to be given to the treatment of drug use disorders. The Commission has encouraged all Member States to consider expanding the coverage and improving the quality of drug treatment systems, interventions and policies based on scientific evidence, “using the scientific evidence-based international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders developed by UNODC and WHO”<sup>12</sup>.

The Commission has recognized that much needs to be done, inviting Member States and other donors to provide extra-budgetary resources to “strengthen comprehensive and scientific evidence-based drug demand reduction, including in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse”<sup>13</sup>.

In response to CND resolution 58/5, entitled “Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offenses of a minor nature”, UNODC and WHO have developed a Handbook on “Treatment and care for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system”, presented in the margins of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the CND.

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, among others, recognizing the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes.

The CND at its 61<sup>st</sup> session in 2018 adopted resolution 61/7 on “Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem”. In this resolution, the Commission “Calls upon Member States to take additional steps to enhance their understanding of the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world

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<sup>11</sup> CND resolution 59/6.

<sup>12</sup> CND resolution 59/4.

<sup>13</sup> CND resolution 60/8.

drug problem” and “encourages Member States, within national legislative and administrative systems, to work towards identifying and addressing the specific vulnerabilities associated with drug use disorders among indigenous populations, where appropriate, paying particular attention to overcoming barriers to accessing effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives”.

Marginalization often affects people with drug use disorders, making their recovery and social integration more challenging.<sup>14</sup> At the 61<sup>st</sup> session the Commission adopted resolution 61/11 on “Promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability, access and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users”, which, amongst others, “encourages Member States, as appropriate, within their national and regional contexts, to promote among their relevant agencies and social service sectors, non-stigmatizing attitudes in the development and implementation of scientific evidence-based policies related to the availability, access and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users, and to reduce possible discrimination, exclusion or prejudice those people may encounter”.

People who inject drugs other than for medical purposes are exposed to poor health outcomes with a greater chance of premature death, high rates of potentially life-threatening infectious diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis, and increased risk of both fatal and non-fatal drug overdose<sup>15</sup>. At its session in 2017, the Commission 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>16</sup>.

Women, children and youth affected by drug dependence are particularly exposed to negative risk factors<sup>17</sup>. The specific needs of children, youth and other vulnerable members of society require measures to provide them with opportunities for healthy and self-sustained lives to prevent drug abuse and address their exploitation in drug production and trafficking and other forms of drug-related crime. In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States devoted an entire chapter to operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues; drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities.<sup>18</sup>

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 its resolution 59/5, entitled “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes”, as well as in a number of additional resolutions and 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. The UNGASS outcome document invites to “Mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the

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<sup>14</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

<sup>15</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2017* (Vienna).

<sup>16</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/8.

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

<sup>18</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, operative paragraph 4.

world drug problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>19</sup>”.

Recognizing that children are particularly vulnerable to drug-related risks, at its 61st session the Commission adopted resolution 61/9 “Protecting children from the illicit drug challenge”, in which it called upon Member States to effectively implement relevant existing international legal instruments and national legislation to protect children from use of illicit drugs and trafficking. Such efforts would be supportive to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is important to ensure non-discriminatory access for women to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, and ensure that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling<sup>20</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>21</sup> In many countries women offenders 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>22</sup>

In its resolution 61/4 on “Promoting measures for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis among women who use drugs” the Commission urged “Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure continued political commitment to combating HIV among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, and to strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.3, to end the epidemics of AIDS and other communicable diseases by 2030, and 3.5, to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse”.

*(b) the identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:*

While tangible progress has been achieved in various fields, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the peace, security, prosperity, health and well-being of all humanity. Member States have reiterated their strong commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and to reinforce national and international efforts to further increase international cooperation while recognizing the necessity for an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand strategies, in order to face those challenges.<sup>23</sup>

One of the gaps highlighted in the UNGASS outcome document is the limited access of many people worldwide to controlled medicines, both narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Member States 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 that the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and highlighted the need to enhance national efforts and

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<sup>19</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, chapter 4, paragraph (g)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> See UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment, pp. 13-14, 115-118.

<sup>22</sup> See UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment, p. 116.

<sup>23</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, preamble.

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 control systems, with a focus on preventing their diversion, misuse and abuse in line with the three international drug control conventions.<sup>24</sup>

Under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954, parties commit to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for the relief of pain and suffering, while at the same time preventing their diversion and limiting their use to medical and scientific purposes. This dual responsibility is at the centre of the international drug control system.

In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States reiterated their strong “commitment to improving 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 and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control, and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking”<sup>25</sup>. A set of recommended measures has been put forward that would help address the pain and suffering of those parts of society that currently lack access. Improvements in this matter would support the achievement of SDG 3, which includes a target to provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines to all.

Other challenges that require the attention of the Commission, and were prominently dealt with during its 61<sup>st</sup> session, are those relating to new psycho-active substances as well as the opioid crisis. The commission placed 12 new substances under international control (6 under the 1954 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; 6 under the 1971 Convention), acting upon the recommendations from WHO. Among these substances is carfentanil, being 100 times more potent than fentanyl and associated with hundreds of documented deaths globally.

The Commission also adopted a resolution entitled “Laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs”, by which it, amongst others, invites UNODC to continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and ensure high quality standards by providing reference material, identifying best practices, developing and updating relevant guidelines and research, and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data so that Member States can ensure their preparedness for the implementation of scheduling decisions.

The Commission further adopted a resolution entitled “Enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids”, which, amongst others, encourages Member States to support UNODC, INCB and WHO in accelerating the process of issuing recommendations for the inclusion of synthetic opioids in the international control regime; encourages them to actively participate in early warning networks and promote the use of drug surveillance lists and controls and the sharing of relevant information through UNODC, INCB and WHO; and invites UNODC to continue to act as the coordinating entity within the United Nations System on efforts to implement activities to address the challenges posed by non-medical use of synthetic opioids.

A general challenge in effectively addressing the world drug problem is the lack of comprehensive, reliable data and statistics. The General Assembly invited Member States again

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<sup>24</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preamble.

<sup>25</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 2.

in 2017 to “promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data”<sup>26</sup>. The availability of high-quality data on drugs is key to understanding the drug situation at the national, regional and global levels and is a cornerstone of evidence-based policymaking and monitoring.

The importance of global data collection is reflected in the three international drug control conventions,<sup>27</sup> by which parties are required to annually submit drug-related data to the United Nations. The need to improve and coordinate data collection, analysis and research on the drug problem has been emphasized in resolutions and documents of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The UNGASS outcome document promotes the value of reliable, comparable, objective and quality statistics across all drug domains<sup>28</sup>. Member States reaffirmed that targeted interventions that are based on the collection and analysis of data, including age- and gender-related data, can be particularly effective in meeting the specific needs of drug-affected populations and communities<sup>29</sup> and committed to enhance the quality and consistency of reported data.<sup>30</sup>

In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States also specifically 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>31</sup> In General Assembly resolution 72/198, Member States reiterated that commitment.

In its resolution 60/1 of March 2017, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs highlighted the importance of strengthening data reporting mechanisms, including by identifying gaps in the current drug statistics and by exploring possibilities to support countries to strengthen existing data collection and analysis tools at the national level. With CND resolution 60/1 Member States invited UNODC to “in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities to strengthen and streamline its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, and to report to the Commission on possible ways to enhance these.” The Expert Consultation, held in Vienna from January 29–31 2018 served as a step in exploring options for responding to resolution 60/1. The expert discussion focused on activities to strengthen national capacities to produce statistical information and on ways to improve and streamline the Annual Report Questionnaire, including by further enhancing inter-agency cooperation.

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<sup>26</sup> See General Assembly resolution 71/198, para 20.

<sup>27</sup> The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

<sup>28</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5.

<sup>29</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preamble.

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

<sup>31</sup> see General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 3.



*(c) valuable lessons learned on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies:*

The comprehensive implementation of all commitments made by the international community to address and counter the world drug problem, in accordance with a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, supports a transformation towards sustainable development and resilient societies.

At the 61st session of the Commission the Executive Director of the UNODC presented the Report on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2018/6). With a view to supporting Member States in the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019, the target date identified in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the report contains the information received from Member States over the last biennium, and describes the challenges identified and progress made since 2009.

Member States, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, have made significant efforts in the implementation of all commitments made by the international community in addressing and countering the world drug problems, bringing about valuable lessons learned including in support of a transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

With the implementation of the over 100 operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the UNGASS outcome document, the Commission in its follow-up process focuses in particular on valuable lessons learnt – the thematic discussions held in autumn 2016, January 2017 and autumn 2017 on the practical implementation of UNGASS provide Member States, UN entities and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, with the opportunity to share experiences, lessons learnt and to inform about concrete activities already taken to implement the UNGASS operational recommendations, as well as discuss action that can be taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to operationalize the recommendations. The three rounds of thematic discussions held to date on UNGASS implementation, have paid equal attention to the implementation of each of the seven thematic chapters. For each of the thematic discussions, the CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters prepared remarks and submitted them to the Commission's regular and reconvened sessions in the form of a conference room paper: <http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/follow-up-process.html#ThematicDiscussion>.

With a view to retaining and collecting the contributions, best practices and valuable lessons learnt shared during the UNGASS follow-up, a knowledge hub was created for the implementation of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document, collecting information on implemented, ongoing or planned activities/programmes/initiatives: [www.postungass2016.org](http://www.postungass2016.org)

*(d) emerging issues likely to affect building sustainable and resilient societies:*

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>32</sup> The targets associated with SDG 16 related to the rule of law and access to justice and reducing violence, organized crime and illicit financial flows all have significant links with the world drug problem and with the response to it and are closely linked to efforts to build sustainable and resilient societies.

In the UNGASS outcome document, Member States stressed the need to address the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions. They also recommended the adoption of rules and regulations to prevent transnational organized criminal networks involved in drug-related activities from trafficking and acquiring firearms.

In 2017, the CND confirmed in its resolution 60/9 its commitment to enhanced capacity building of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies, to counter illicit drug trafficking through training<sup>33</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.

Both in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action<sup>34</sup> and the UNGASS outcome document<sup>35</sup>, Member States recognized that transit States faced multifaceted challenges and their capacity needed to be enhanced to address and counter the world drug problem. With its resolution 60/2 of 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.

*(e) areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required:*

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 also support the CND in increasing the visibility for the work the CND 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 relevant stakeholders in the work of the Commission, as well as in ensuring

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<sup>32</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>33</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/9.

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

<sup>35</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preamble.

coherence between its contributions and the work of the HLPF towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

***(f) policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in establishing sustainable and resilient societies:***

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has made many recommendations towards implementing the commitments made in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, recognizing that those documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing, that can help accelerate progress in the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

As called for in the UNGASS outcome document, Member States are committed to implement effectively the provisions set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, as well as 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 commitments made by the international community over the preceding decade to addressing and countering the world drug problem.

**III. Links between the work of the CND and the SDGs under in-depth review in 2018 (6, 7, 11, 12, 15) and 17**

***Sustainable Development Goal 6***

The UNGASS outcome document in its Chapter 4 on human rights includes elements on the protection of the environment related to the cultivation and eradication of illicit substances and its impact on the environment. In recommendation 4(i), Member States committed to ensuring that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate illicit plants, take, inter alia, due account of the protection of the environment. This recommendation can support the broader implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG6 (“*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*”), in particular target 6.3, to improve water by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials.

***Sustainable Development Goal 11***

The recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document support also the implementation of SDG 11 - efforts to *make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. Member States highlighted, in recommendation 1(g), the importance of providing access for children and youth to regular sports and cultural activities, with a view to promoting healthy lives and lifestyles including through the recovery and improvement of public spaces, and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices in this field to further enhance effective preventive interventions. Implementing population-wide, targeted and indicated prevention measures strengthens resilience among youth and children hence supporting efforts of the international community to achieve SDG target 11.7(providing

universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities).

The World Drug Report of 2012<sup>36</sup> addressed the linkages between urbanization and drug control. It is noted that the level of urbanization along with the population growth were important factors for drug prevalence rates. Illicit drug use is more common among certain groups and in certain environments than in others. Along with age and gender, a major sociodemographic driving factor for illicit drug use is the level of urbanization. Generally, more illicit drug use takes place in urban settings than in rural settings.

### *Sustainable Development Goal 15*

According to the 2016 UNODC World Drug Report<sup>37</sup>, clandestine laboratories processing and manufacturing plant-based and synthetic drugs require significant quantities of precursors and other chemicals, many of which are hazardous to human health and potentially damaging to the environment. These chemicals include solvents; metals and salts; and acids and bases, and often by products and unused chemicals are disposed of in urban sewerage systems, other urban settings or, in the case of processing of plant-based drugs in non-urban areas, the natural environment, including rivers and forests. The protection of the environment in relation to drug cultivation and eradication also supports the broader implementation of SDG15, addressing the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Environmental issues have also been highlighted in the context of drug production (“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”<sup>38</sup>) and in particular in the context of the promotion of alternative development programmes (“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>39</sup>. Improvements in this area could contribute to the implementation of the SDG 15.

### *Sustainable Development Goal 17*

Regarding SDG 17, calling to “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” the CND has been and will continue to invite relevant UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to its meetings and encourage them to actively contribute to its work. 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.

With UNGASS 2016, Member States reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), as the policy-making body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and

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<sup>36</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2012 (Vienna), pages 104ff

<sup>37</sup> See UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2016 (Vienna).

<sup>38</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 7.

<sup>39</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 7.

Crime (UNODC), as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, while encouraging UNODC to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.

In its resolution 60/1 on “Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019”<sup>40</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. 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 meetings and displaying of pre-recorded video-messages.

In its resolution 61/10, entitled “Preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019”, tabled by the Chair on behalf of the Commission, all Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system were further encouraged to actively participate in the discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparation for the 2019 ministerial segment in order to foster an in-depth exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and best practices to address and counter the world drug problem.

The agenda of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission included an item entitled “inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem”<sup>41</sup>. During that item, the Commission was informed about the implementation of its resolution 60/6 by which the Commission had encouraged the continuation of efforts between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, within their respective roles and mandates, to improve coordination and collaboration on international drug policy. At the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the CND in 2018 a joint tri-partite side event was held and a joint statement was issued<sup>42</sup>. The Commission was also informed about UN-system wide activities undertaken: With a view to enhancing a coherent approach, the Secretary-General had tasked UNODC with leading the coordination among relevant United Nations entities in assisting Member States with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. Through a network of focal points, a number of United Nations system-wide activities have been initiated in response to that request, inter alia, the development of a matrix of UNGASS-related action at HQs and in the field and a joint calendar of events, joint activities that were being integrated in a joint system-wide strategy and develop a system-wide strategy on UNGASS implementation across the three United Nations pillars. Reference was also made to the fact that during the three rounds of CND thematic discussions on the UNGASS implementation, experts from UN Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, and the International Narcotics Control Board, participated along with national experts and representatives of other intergovernmental and international organizations as well as civil society organizations, and shared their expertise on the practical implementation of the respective UNGASS chapters.

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<sup>40</sup> See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1.

<sup>41</sup> See E/CN.7/2018/CRP 7 (Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem)

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2018/unisnar1345.html>

It is also noteworthy that the CND has also 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. During the 60th session of the CND, a representative of the Statistical Commission addressed the CND and reiterated its readiness to work with the CND to improve drug statistics. A special event was held jointly with the Statistical Commission at the time of the reconvened session in 2017. The Commission at its 61<sup>st</sup> session was connected via video conference to the session of the Commission on the Status of Women and exchanged views on their joint work.

More information on the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs can be found on the following website: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html>

More information on the contributions made by the Commission to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be found on the following sub-page: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>