



**Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
2021 Theme:**

“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **H.E. Ms. Dominika Krois (Poland), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its sixty-fourth session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 1 December 2020, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC at the UN headquarters in New York from 6 to 15 July 2021, on the theme **“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”**. The input aims to highlight the views and guidance of the CND on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the angle of the world drug problem and the various measures and types of international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impacts and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

The present document is submitted in addition to the “Statement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on addressing and countering the world drug situation” (draft title), which was under discussion at the time of submission.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) works on a large portfolio of issues. The ones addressed in this contribution do not reflect the work of the Commission in a comprehensive manner, but represent examples related to the 2021 HLPF theme.

II. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs under review in the 2021 HLPF from the vantage point of the CND, bearing in mind the interlinkages with other SDGs

In its resolution 75/198, entitled “International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem”, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2020, Member States recognized “the important challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the international, regional and national levels, which have the potential to generate new trends and dynamics with regard to the world drug problem”. Also in the “Statement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on addressing and countering the world drug situation” (draft title), the Commission has expressed its concern regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world drug problem.

These statements of concern find support in the recent research regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world drug problem, and on the implementation of the SDGs. The present chapter summarizes some of the recent research results.

The drug supply chain has at the international level been affected by mobility restrictions, the significant reduction of legal trade and changes in law enforcement activities. Illicit drug production continued with some changes during restriction measures, resulting from the decreased availability of precursor chemicals due to impediments of trafficking in such chemicals. Drug trafficking has been affected by disruptions in air traffic and increased border controls on land routes. Drug traffickers have quickly adapted, using new routes and partly shifting to trafficking by sea, container cargo and light aircrafts.¹ For example in the Balkans, evidence suggests that traffickers are changing the types of drugs they smuggle, and drug trafficking routes from Asia to Western Europe have diversified to avoid controls on movement.² This kind of data can provide insight with regard to the achievement of SDG 16 (*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*), in particular target 16.4 (*By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*).

The impact on the supply chain has led to temporarily reduced the availability of controlled substances, which potentially triggers more harmful patterns of use (e.g., increased use of fentanyl, homemade injectable opioids or sharing of injecting equipment) and in turn can increase the risk of transmission of communicable diseases or overdose. Additionally, lockdown measures have reduced the access to treatment options and medications. The impact of the pandemic on drug demand will require close attention when assessing the achievement

¹ UNODC, COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use, Research Brief (July 2020).

² UNODC, “The impact of COVID-19 on organized crime”, Research Brief (July 2020).

of SDG 3 (*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*), in particular target 3.4 (*By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being*) and target 3.5 (*Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol*), in particular indicator 3.5.1 (*Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders*).

It is too early to assess the long-term effects of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, but one may project possible consequences from past economic crises, such as the 2008 financial crisis. The restrained economic conditions will likely make vulnerable households more economically dependent on opium and coca leaf production. Poverty, unemployment and a more precarious socio-economic situation can also be conducive to substance use and to related (often criminal) behaviour. Alternative development may thus become even more important in supporting vulnerable communities affected by the consequences of the pandemic and in providing them with sustainable livelihoods. Studies from the 2008 financial crisis showed that drug use patterns became more harmful, and drug use shifted to cheaper drugs and towards injecting drug use. At the same time, public budgets related to drug policy were substantially decreased, thereby reducing the capacity of Member States to fund supply and demand reduction programmes. Data on the medium- to long-term economic impact of the pandemic are relevant for the achievement of SDG 3, but also highlight its interlinkage to other SDGs and targets, such as target 2.4 (*By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality*) and target 8.3 (*Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*).

III. Actions, policy guidance, progress, challenges and areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the SDGs and to the theme within the area under the purview of the CND

In March 2019, ten years after the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Commission had adopted by consensus the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on “Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem”,

thereby reiterating that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In this spirit, the Commission facilitates, at its regular sessions held in the first half of each year, an interactive exchange of views among Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the ways to best contribute, within the Commission's mandate, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to ensure a follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and to support the review of its implementation during consideration of a dedicated agenda item entitled "*Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*".

Different to its sister Commission, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was able to successfully conclude its regular sixty-third session, on 2-6 March 2020 – shortly before the first lockdown in Austria. After that, it held a number of other events, including its reconvened sixty-third session on 2-4 December 2020, in hybrid and online formats. A special commemorative event devoted to the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, was held on 26 June 2020. On this occasion, the World Drug Report 2020 was launched, followed by a discussion on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world drug situation.

The present chapter presents some of the examples how this approach translates into practical policy guidance provided by the Commission during its 63rd session. With regard to the SDGs under review this year, the following actions, policy guidance, progress, challenges and areas requiring urgent attention have been highlighted:

Sustainable Development Goal 1 on no poverty, Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger and Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth

The Commission has traditionally placed high emphasis on securing sustainable livelihoods and alternative development. Alternative development is a concept which the United Nations General Assembly, in its twentieth special session on September 1998, described as "a process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular socio-economic characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs".

In its resolution 63/5, entitled "Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy", the Commission recognized that alternative development programmes

can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization. It encouraged Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects. It also encouraged the development of viable economic alternatives, in particular for communities affected by, or at risk of, illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, and encouraged Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them.

This policy guidance is relevant for the achievement of several SDGs and targets, including target 1.4 (*By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance*), target 1.5 (*By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters*), target 2.4 (*By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality*) and target 8.3 (*Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*).

Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being

Since the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, the Commission has held annual thematic sessions as a forum for exchange of expertise and experience among all interested stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and international organizations, and civil society. In 2019, the Commission adopted a multi-year workplan “Implementation of all our international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration” to structure the thematic discussions. The second thematic discussion under the 2019 workplan of the Commission took place on 19-21 October 2020 and included four thematic sessions on specific challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration:

- Thematic session 1: Drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased; and the rate of transmission of HIV, (19 October 2020)
- Thematic session 2: The hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drug use in some countries, remains high (19 October 2020)
- Thematic session 3: The adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels (20 October 2020), and
- Thematic session 4: The availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many parts of the world (21 October 2020).

The thematic sessions were held in a hybrid format and enabled an interactive and inclusive exchange of good practices and lessons learned in addressing the health-related challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. The statements were posted at the dedicated webpage: <https://www.unodc.org/hlr/en/Follow-upProcess.html>

Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

The Commission has repeatedly committed to a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and well-being.

In the Ministerial Declaration 2019, States “reiterated their resolve to strengthen effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives covering prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures on a non-discriminatory basis, as well as, in accordance with national legislation, initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.” States noted with concern that “drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased” and committed to “ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind [...] placing the safety, health and well-being of all members of society, in particular our youth and children, at the centre of our efforts”.

The Commission’s commitment to address the prevention and treatment of drug use disorders contributes to the achievement of SDG 3 as a whole, but particularly of target 3.5 (“*Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol*”) and indicator 3.5.1 (“*Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders*”).

Access to and availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes

Measures to ensure access to, and the availability of, internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse are at the core of the international drug control system. In 2020, the Commission adopted resolution 63/3, entitled “Promoting awareness-raising, education and training as part of a comprehensive approach to ensuring access to and the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and improving their rational use”. In this resolution, the Commission reiterated that a key objective of the international drug control system is to ensure the availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and that, to this end, efforts are needed to address all the existing barriers, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessments and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control and international cooperation and coordination. The Commission encouraged Member States to adopt measures for awareness-raising and stressed the importance of the education and training of health-care professionals on the essential role and rational use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and the negative outcomes associated with non-medical use and diversion. The Commission also encouraged Member States, and invited UNODC, the INCB, the WHO and other relevant international organizations to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to the States most affected by insufficient access to, and lack of, availability of international controlled substances for pain relief, in particular developing countries.

These measures aim at contributing to the achievement of target 3.8 (*Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all*), in particular indicator 3.8.1 (*Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)*).

HIV transmission among drug users

The Commission also regularly addresses the prevention of HIV transmission among people who use drugs. Its resolution 62/6 is entitled “Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV attributable to drug use among women and for women who are exposed to risk factors associated with drug use, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis”. In this resolution, States committed to strengthening “their efforts and take measures to promote healthy lives and well-being for all and achieve gender equality, by contributing to ending the AIDS epidemic and eliminating viral hepatitis B and C, ... in line with the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, in particular its Goals 3 and 5.” The resolution is particularly relevant to 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*) and indicator 3.3.1 (*Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations*), it further highlights the interlinkage to SDG 5 (*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*). On a closely related topic, the Commission adopted in 2019 its resolution 62/7, entitled “Promoting measures to prevent and treat viral hepatitis C attributable to drug use”.

Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production

In its resolution 63/1, entitled “Promoting efforts by Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular supply reduction-related measures, through effective partnerships with private sector entities”, the Commission promoted cooperation between Governments and the private sector with a view to preventing the exploitation of legitimate industries for purposes of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs and precursors and related money-laundering.

The Commission noted with concern that drug traffickers continued to exploit tools of modern commerce, including financial transfer services and platforms, for trafficking purposes. It encouraged Member States and private sector entities to consider approaches and partnerships which afford a commensurate level of assurances and legal protections for the private sector when taking action to safeguard its platforms, services and supply chains and enhance the identification and disruption of illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in precursors and money-laundering. The Commission encouraged Member States to make use of the existing tools, including

- The Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry (International Narcotics Control Board)
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, and
- The United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions

In the same resolution 63/1, the Commission encouraged “private sector entities, including financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and providers of money or value transfer services, to identify suspicious transactions”, and urged “Member States to take further steps to prevent the diversion of drugs, including synthetic drugs,

including through measures and initiatives addressing the training of relevant professionals and, where appropriate, education and raising public awareness and engaging with private sector entities”.

According to the multi-year workplan of the Commission, the thematic discussion 2021 will be held on related topics, in particular the following challenges in the Ministerial Declaration 2019:

- That increasing 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, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, are observed;
- That the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low; and
- That the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing.

The work carried out by the Commission regarding supply reduction and countering drug trafficking contributes to the achievement of SDG 16, in particular target 16.4 (*By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*) and indicator 16.4.1 (*Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)*).

Target 16.8 (Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance), and Sustainable Development Goal 17 (partnerships).

COVID-19 related restrictions, inducing travel impediments, quarantine requirements and limitations to the numbers of meeting participants, have put intergovernmental processes at risk – processes that have been established to allow for inclusive decision-making and the exchange of views and to ensuring that all voices are heard.

Ensuring business continuity and providing for an inclusive environment for multilateral deliberations during the pandemic has been the top priority of the Vienna-based Commissions. While remote participation and a certain degree of digitalization was not novel, the COVID-19 pandemic set this process on a fast track, forcing the Commissions to adapt to new working methods and communication almost overnight. Since March 2020, the CND held in online or hybrid formats its yearly reconvened session, two intersessional meetings, three topical meetings on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, two special events, extraordinary

sessions of its subsidiary bodies, ten meetings of the Extended Bureau, and a number of briefings.

Alongside the challenges posed by the online and hybrid format, the meetings conducted in such formats also showed an increase of Member States' experts and stakeholders participating from around the world. For example, each of the topical meetings on the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances brought together on average over 600 national experts discussing the impact of the recommendations. The annual thematic discussions held in a hybrid format in October 2020 enjoyed the participation of over 500 experts from over 100 Member States, United Nations entities, international and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society. Over 20,000 visits to the livestream of the discussions were recorded during the three days' meeting.

Fostering partnerships is key in the Commission's work. Its sessions include a standing agenda item on "Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem", during which the Commission discusses joint efforts and the coordination with and among other stakeholders in addressing the world drug problem. Amongst these are f.e. the cooperation the Commission pursues with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as well as the cooperation among UN system entities and specialized agencies.

IV. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" at the global, regional and national levels against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

The principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind", as the central promise of the 2030 Agenda, represents the commitment of all Member States to end poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind. Some examples how the CND addresses the principle of "leaving no one behind" are listed below.

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States committed to ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind by enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges through the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem, placing the safety, health and well-being of all members of society, in particular youth and children, at the centre of their efforts.

Gender-based discrimination

The Vienna-based Commissions have in recent years increasingly devoted attention to the issue of gender equality. They addressed the issues of gender mainstreaming and gender-inclusive communication, including through the informal “Let’s Talk Gender” meetings and the establishment of a dedicated webpage on the implementation of SDG 5.

In its resolution 63/2 entitled “Promoting and improving the collection and analysis of reliable and comparable data to strengthen balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem”, the Commission, inter alia, encouraged Member States to collect and share quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age and sex, related to the world drug problem, and to mainstream a gender perspective in the research and analysis on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use.

The CND and the CCPCJ also work with their brother and sister functional commissions of the ECOSOC, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women, to jointly further the implementation of SDG 5. In June 2020, the Vienna-based Commissions hosted a joint virtual high-level special event in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Youth

In its resolution 63/4, entitled “Promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts”, the Commission recognized the importance of involving young people, their parents and families and of supporting youth-based organizations in appropriate scientific and evidence-based efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent the non-medical use of drugs among young people. The Commission also called upon Member States to consider ways to increase the meaningful participation of, and support, youth in raising awareness of the risks and dangers associated with the non-medical use of drugs and in promoting healthy lifestyles among their peers, at educational institutions and within their communities, through community-based interventions led by, or targeted at, young people.

The Commission also invited Member States, the UNODC other relevant international and civil society organizations to make the best use of existing tools, such as, the “Handbook on youth participation in drug prevention work”, use opportunities such as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and International Youth Day, and consider joining and supporting the implementation of the “Listen first” initiative, launched by the UNODC and the WHO.

A Youth Forum is traditionally held at the margins of the main March meeting of the Commission, and representatives of this Youth Forum inform the CND about the outcome of their meetings, for the CND to consider that input in its own deliberations. The 2020 Youth Forum was held on 2-4 March 2020. Two young leaders participating in the Youth Forum were nominated and selected by their peers to speak on behalf of the full group and deliver the Youth Statement during a Plenary Session of the 63rd regular session of the CND. The Youth Statement called on policy makers to prioritise substance use prevention and work with youth to make the world a safer place.³

Financing for development

With the strong commitment to focus beyond 2019 on the practical implementation of the policy commitments made over the past decade, Member States committed in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to continuing to mobilize resources, including for the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building at all levels, to ensure that all Member States can effectively address and counter emerging and persistent drug-related challenges.

V. Cooperation, measures and commitments at all levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

In its resolution 75/198, entitled “International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem”, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2020, Member States recognized the important challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the international, regional and national levels, and stressed the importance of international cooperation to comprehensively address and counter these challenges based on common and shared responsibility. They also called upon all Member States to actively participate in the discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparation for its sixty-fourth session in 2021 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, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and encouraged all other relevant stakeholders to make contributions in this regard.

The Commission consistently charts new ways towards cooperation at all levels in promoting innovative solutions with regard to the world drug problem and for the achievement of the SDGs, for example

³ https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/Youth%20Initiative/Youth_Forum/UNODC_YF2020_Report.pdf

- between law enforcement authorities and the private sector (see resolution 63/1, entitled “Promoting efforts by Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular supply reduction-related measures, through effective partnerships with private sector entities”)
- between Member States’ law enforcement authorities (see for example, resolution 62/1, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation and comprehensive regulatory and institutional frameworks for the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances” or resolution 62/2, entitled “Enhancing detection and identification capacity for synthetic drugs for non-medical use by increasing international collaboration”)
- with civil society (see for example, resolution 63/4, entitled “Promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts”)
- between Member States’ competent national authorities and national statistical authorities, with the aim of increasing capacity and collective knowledge regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of responses to address and counter the world drug problem (resolution 63/2, entitled “Promoting and improving the collection and analysis of reliable and comparable data to strengthen balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem”)
- among intergovernmental organizations (see above-mentioned resolutions 63/1 and 63/2), and
- between Member States for the exchange of experiences, good practices and the provision of technical assistance (for example, with regard to alternative development, see resolution 63/5, entitled “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy”).

The Commission has during 2020, despite pandemic-related restrictions, found ways to share national experiences and foster cooperation with regard to the world drug problem, for example, during the extraordinary sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held on 1-2 October 2020, and during the thematic sessions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments held on 19-21 October 2020. It was suggested during the reconvened sixty-third session, held in December 2020, that the general debate during the sixty-fourth session would provide an opportunity to focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on addressing and countering the world drug situation.

VI. Various measures and policy recommendations on building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

The following recommendations may be considered by the HLPF, with a view to building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and to realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development:

- Reiterate that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and that drug-related challenges are intertwined with all aspects of sustainable development, with all areas of the Sustainable Development Goals shaping the nature and dynamic of the drug problem;
- Mainstream balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem, into the COVID-19 recovery plans, with a view to “building back better” and ensure that no one is left behind;
- Invest in effective responses to address and counter the world drug problem, supporting the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, within their mandates, to ensure an inclusive dialogue on all aspects of the world drug problem and to provide technical assistance and capacity building for requesting Member States;
- Reaffirm the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and in accordance with national legislation.