

Prepared by the UNGASS Board for consideration by the CND

DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT (14 JANUARY 2016)
UNGASS 2016: Our joint commitment in addressing the world drug problem

We, heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations, from 19 to 21 April 2016, for the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, convened in accordance with resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Recalling that the three international drug control conventions are the cornerstone of international drug control policy;

Noting that the drug control conventions, concerned with health and welfare of humankind, provide flexibility to State Parties to implement national drug policies;

Reiterating the utmost importance of a balanced and integrated and evidence-based approach to supply and demand reduction and international cooperation as outlined in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High Level Review in March 2014, and note the efforts made by Member States to achieve the goals set therein;

Reiterating our commitment to address drug related issues and implement drug policies in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions;

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and non-intervention, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, when addressing the world drug problem;

Underlining the importance of strengthening public health responses and of upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals without any form of discrimination and recognizing that human beings are to be placed at the centre of international drug control;

Also underlining the importance of upholding the law and its enforcement for the safety and security of individuals and countries;

Reaffirming the need to enhance international cooperation, including technical assistance, to successfully address the world drug problem, and the need to provide sufficient resources to assist developing countries, including transit countries with the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the period leading up to 2019, which has been set as the target date for achieving targets and goals set out therein;

Being aware of the need to address the root causes of the world drug problem and of the serious harm caused by drugs to individuals, families and societies;

Recognizing that there are new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem, which need to be addressed in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions;

Also recognizing the importance of prioritising interventions that have worked, while further strengthening research and data collection to develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based policies to successfully address the world drug problem;

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *noting* that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals can contribute to addressing the world drug problem;

Welcoming the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, as well as the treaty-based role of the World Health Organization, and calling for their enhanced cooperation in achieving the aims of the international drug control conventions;

Calling upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role through implementation of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, including provision of technical assistance and capacity building assistance, and to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination across the United Nations system as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

Calling upon all other relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to appropriately contribute within their mandates to countering the world drug problem;

Recognizing the important role civil society can play in assisting Governments in developing drug control programmes and in providing services for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, including at the local level,

We resolve to take on our common and shared responsibility to address the world drug problem towards ensuring the well-being of peoples and societies and building a better tomorrow for present and future generations by redoubling our cooperation, and, towards this end,

We resolve to call upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to monitor the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in this document and to start the preparations for the review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2019.

Operational recommendations on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment as well as health related issues

1. We reiterate our commitment to health, welfare and well-being of individuals and society through national and international comprehensive, evidence-based demand reduction initiatives, covering prevention and treatment, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and we resolve to implement the following operational recommendations:

Prevention

- (a) Take practical measures to protect children and young people from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by providing them with opportunities to develop life skills, enjoy equal positive opportunities and supportive parenting;
- (b) Increase availability, coverage and quality of evidence based prevention and age-appropriate education strategies and tools, including at schools and in the media, to reduce drug initiation and delay the transition to drug use disorders;
- (c) Promote education and awareness programmes through multiple settings, involving parents, teachers, students, religious leaders, health professionals, community leaders and social workers;
- (d) Develop appropriate prevention curricula for inclusion in textbooks at school, college and university levels and enhance the capacity of teachers and education and community institutions to provide counselling and prevention services for young people;
- (e) Improve recreational facilities especially sports facilities for youth and arrange regular sports competitions and cultural activities to engage youth in healthy activities and prevent them from falling prey to drug abuse;
- (f) Promote the collection of data on drug use and epidemiology and promote the use of international standards, such as the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, to formulate effective prevention strategies and programmes;

Treatment, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care

- (g) Recognize drug dependence as a multi-factorial health disorder, which is to be addressed through implementation of effective evidence-based drug treatment and care programmes, such as community

based programs, and strengthen rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery of dependent drug users, including reintegration into the labour market;

- (h) Develop outreach programmes and campaigns to prevent stigmatization and to encourage drug users to seek treatment and recognize the right of drug users to give an informed consent to treatment;
- (i) Ensure non-discriminatory access to screening, treatment, including behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, and social rehabilitation, integration and recovery programmes for people affected by drug use, including access to such services in prisons and after imprisonment, giving particular attention to vulnerable members of society and gender specificities;
- (j) Develop practices aimed at strengthening cooperation among law enforcement, justice system, health authorities and social services agencies;
- (k) Promote regional and international cooperation in developing and implementing treatment-related initiatives and enhance assistance and capacity building, including for the development and implementation of treatment programmes in prisons and in developing and upgrading rehabilitation and recovery centres in developing and transit countries;
- (l) Implement measures aimed at minimizing the risk and the health and social consequences of drug use and adopt measures to prevent and reduce transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use and enlarge access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings;
- (m) Promote the use of the existing guidelines jointly developed by WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS and of relevant international standards, including international standards on substance abuse treatment, and provide assistance and training to health professionals;
- (n) Intensify meaningful participation of, and provide support and training to, community-based organizations and civil society organizations involved in drug treatment services;

Operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

2. *We reiterate our commitment to ensuring the **availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion** and we resolve to implement the following operational recommendations:*

- (a) Establish and implement national legislative and regulatory frameworks to improve access to controlled medicines, especially in developing countries, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking;
- (b) Strengthen capacity of national regulatory and health authorities, including through training of health professionals on access to controlled medicines, and increase the awareness and support at the community level;
- (c) Develop national assessments and programmes, in cooperation with UNODC, the INCB and WHO, to remove barriers to availability, within appropriate control mechanisms outlined in the three international drug control conventions;
- (d) Encourage a regular update of the WHO model lists of essential medicines as well as informed and coordinated scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
- (e) Enhance international cooperation and capacity building and encourage exchange of information, lessons learnt and best practices in designing and implementing regulatory, financial, educational and administrative and other related measures;
- (f) Encourage the use of the WHO Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines and the I2ES system;
- (g) Address issues related to the affordability of controlled medicines for countries in need and consider establishing cooperation networks with suppliers;

Operational recommendations on supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

3. *We reiterate our commitment to safety and security of individuals and societies and to intensify our efforts in countering drug-related crime and violence and we resolve to implement the following operational recommendations:*

Prevention of crime

- (a) Strengthen efforts at international, regional and national levels in preventing drug-related crime and drug-related violence, consistent with international human rights norms, and to integrate relevant measures within overall law enforcement efforts;
- (b) Promote data collection, research and sharing of information as well as best practices on prevention of drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices;
- (c) Promote also a culture of lawfulness and the effective role of civil society;
- (d) Encourage law enforcement authorities to closely cooperate with local communities;

International drug trafficking

- (e) Counter the manufacture, supply and trafficking of drugs and prioritize identifying, disrupting and dismantling transnational organized criminal groups involved in any illicit activities related to drug trafficking and prevent the abuse of legitimate commercial trade using maritime and aerial routes for illicit activities, also in transit countries, and consider using existing operational initiatives and technical assistance activities;
- (f) Address new trafficking routes and trends;
- (g) Promote intelligence and information sharing among law enforcement and border control agencies, including through regional information centres and networks, and promote joint operations, regionally and internationally;
- (h) Strengthen cross-border management strategies as well as the capacity of border control and law enforcement agencies through technical assistance, including through the provision of equipment and technology to monitor drug trafficking;
- (i) Develop joint training platforms to level up law enforcement expertise and capacity and thus facilitate the implementation of sophisticated joint operations at regional and international levels;
- (j) Enhance awareness of law enforcement agencies in forensics science in the context of drug investigations, and strengthen their capacity to gather, preserve and present forensic evidence to effectively prosecute trafficking offences, including offences committed misusing the Internet;
- (k) Strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters, including judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance;

Links with other forms of organised crime and corruption

- (l) Address also links between drug trafficking, corruption, terrorism and its financing, gangs and youth violence as well as other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in humans, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in small arms, cybercrime, trafficking in wildlife products, and money-laundering and promote and support data collection, research and intelligence sharing across regions to ensure effective policy-making;
- (m) Encourage the use of existing international mechanisms to combat all forms of organized crime and enhance cooperation to counter transnational organised crime networks in the national, regional and sub-regional context;
- (n) Consider ratifying relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations counter-terrorism legal instruments, and – as States Parties – take measures to effectively implement these international legal instruments;

- (o) Enhance the capacity to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking, to address financial havens and identify money-laundering risks linked to new technologies;
- (p) Strengthen existing regional and international networks for the exchange of operational information and intensify support to bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force;
- (q) Develop and strengthen regional and international platforms to identify, target and confiscate illicit assets and money of drug trafficking networks, and strengthen international and regional cooperation to enhance timeliness of freezing of assets and their recovery;
- (r) Ensure that measures aimed at addressing the links between corruption and drug-related crime are included in comprehensive national counter-narcotic strategies and strengthen efforts to implement decisive responses to challenges posed by corruption within an integrated approach to addressing drug trafficking;

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities

4. *We reiterate our commitment to the rule of law, justice and protection of human rights in developing and implementing drug policies and we resolve to implement the following **operational recommendations**:*

Youth, women, children and communities

- (a) Enhance targeted efforts to protect the health of human beings, in particular children and young people, by preventing them from using drugs and encourage cooperation with universities and schools as well as with relevant international organizations including UNODC, WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF in the elaboration of prevention programmes, including on providing guidance on prevention in community and school settings;
- (b) Give special attention to age-specific and gender-specific needs in treatment programmes;
- (c) Implement targeted practical measures to prevent and address the use of children, young people and women in the illicit production and drug trafficking;
- (d) Develop interventions targeted at gangs and youth violence to provide them with alternative ways of life;
- (e) Strengthen the knowledge of policy makers on the nature of drug dependence and to promote international cooperation with a view to promote universal respect and responsibility for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to health, the right to security and right to development, and to further facilitate their observance;
- (f) Call for continued attention to human rights of the most affected communities, and for the inclusion of information in relevant CND documentation and in other reports, including the World Drug Report;
- (g) Consider mechanisms for involving affected communities, including indigenous peoples, in the design and implementation of programmes and policies that affect them;

Proportionate and effective policies and responses as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings

- (h) Consider to develop, adopt and use a wide range of alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature and consider to review drug sentencing policies and practices to include alternative measures to incarceration, taking into consideration special needs of women and first-time offenders and ensuring that any such measures, including national administrative and criminal justice approaches, are developed and implemented in accordance with the purposes and objectives of the three international drug control conventions
- (i) Promote consistent and proportionate sentencing, whereby the severity of penalties is consistent with the gravity of offences;

- (j) Promote data collection, research and sharing of information as well as best practices on criminal justice responses to drug related offences;
- (k) Consider the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including measures to reduce and avoid overcrowding of prisons, and to ensure capacity-building of authorities on proportional and adequate criminal justice responses;
- (l) Ensure legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings, including practical measures towards the prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other forms of ill treatment and ensure the protection of the right of fair trial in accordance with international norms, including by implementation of independent and effective investigations to bring alleged perpetrators to justice;

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

5. *We reiterate our commitment* to address new challenges, realities and threats posed to health and safety of individuals and society, and to strengthen our international cooperation efforts and *we resolve to implement the following operational recommendations:*

ATS, including methamphetamine

- (a) Support research, data collection and analysis of scientific evidence and sharing of information on illicit trafficking in ATS including methamphetamine and develop best practices aimed at reducing supply and demand of ATS and its precursors and pre-precursors;
- (b) Develop prevention and treatment models that are relevant to the health and psychological problems associated with ATS, including methamphetamine, and to share those models through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels;
- (c) Continue to adopt, based on the information on patterns of use and risks to the public, appropriate measures aimed at reducing the supply of and demand for ATS, in accordance with national legislation;
- (d) Address the use of precursors, pre-precursors and alternative precursors in the manufacture of ATS;
- (e) Strengthen international and regional cooperation in tackling ATS, including methamphetamine and promote the use of existing mechanisms such as the UNODC Early Warning Advisory, the Global SMART Programme, joint operations and sharing of good practices among practitioners involved in supply and demand reduction;

New psycho-active substances, precursors and the misuse of pharmaceuticals

- (f) Strengthen national responses and take measures to reduce the demand for NPS and precursors and to prevent and counter the misuse of pharmaceuticals and continue to monitor trends in their composition, production, prevalence and sales, as well as patterns of use and adverse consequences within national borders;
- (g) Commit to implement time-effective control or regulatory measures within national legislative and administrative systems to tackle the emergence of NPS and strengthen the work of WHO, UNODC and other relevant international and regional organizations to prioritize the review of the most relevant, persistent and harmful NPS and to facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the CND on NPS;
- (h) Develop tailored prevention and treatment policies of NPS, and actively share information and expertise on national health-related experiences and treatment models relevant to the health problems associated with NPS;
- (i) Strengthen the use of national and international established reporting systems, such as the UNODC Early Warning Advisory, Global SMART Programme and PEN Online;

- (j) Enhance capacity of national laboratories and law enforcement agencies for detection and identification of NPS and promote cross-border cooperation to prevent their misuse and diversion, including through the use of reference standards as well as the ION Project;
- (k) Consider partnerships with chemical and pharmaceutical industries and encourage the use of the INCB Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry;
- (l) Develop and implement counter measures and supportive public health strategies to counter the misuse of pharmaceuticals;

Use of the internet and the dark net

- (m) Support research, data collection and analysis of evidence and sharing of information, as well strengthen law enforcement responses aimed at reducing the misuse of the Internet, including the use of the Dark Net, for illicit drug-related purposes including the illicit trafficking and sales of drugs;
- (n) Increase provision of technical assistance and capacity building at regional and international levels against the use of technologies and cyber-space by drug trafficking networks and transnational organized crime;
- (o) Encourage the use of the INCB Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet;
- (p) Support measures on the use of the Internet for prevention purposes, in particular in the interest of youth;

Operational recommendations on strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation

6. *We reiterate our commitment to support each other in our efforts to address the world drug problem, based on **common and shared responsibility** and **to enhance international cooperation** and we resolve to implement the following **operational recommendations**:*

- (a) Establish objective, reliable monitoring systems for developing evidence-based drug policies and encourage sharing of lessons learned;
- (b) Provide UNODC and other United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations having pertinent technical expertise with adequate resources for data collection and analysis, and encourage them to assist developing countries in strengthening their ability to fully utilize the information available;
- (c) Strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including adequate financial assistance, training and equipment to developing countries, including transit countries, to enhance their effective implementation of drug demand reduction and supply reduction measures;
- (d) Call upon UNODC and other United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations having pertinent technical expertise to provide targeted capacity building and training to developing countries to strengthen their ability to prevent and treat drug use and dependence, address NPS, ATS and the misuse of pharmaceuticals as well as counter money-laundering and other drug-related crime, and provide adequate resources for this purpose;
- (e) Enhance north-south and south-south cooperation;
- (f) Strengthen information exchange and sharing of good practices at regional level among practitioners involved in demand reduction; among practitioners involved in supply reduction; and “between” demand reduction and supply reduction practitioners and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
- (g) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to consider identifying additional quantifiable indicators in the sphere of drug demand and supply reduction, where appropriate, as well as to consider requesting the development of new guidelines and update existing ones;

- (h) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to review the progress on the relevant sustainable development goals in support of the work undertaken by the High Level Political Forum;
- (i) Encourage all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their involvement in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with a view to enhance system-wide coherence towards supporting Member States in effectively addressing the world drug problem;

Operational recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socio-economic issues

7. *We reiterate our commitment to addressing vulnerabilities through implementation of long-term, sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes and eradication programmes and we resolve to implement the following **operational recommendations**:*

Socio-economic issues and alternative development

- (a) Address broader causes, including poverty and social marginalization, when addressing drug control;
- (b) Encourage the promotion of economic growth, support initiatives that contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development, poverty eradication, measures for rural development, strengthening of local institutions, improving infrastructure, addressing negative environmental consequences of crops, access to markets and the participation of local communities;
- (c) Elaborate and implement comprehensive sustainable approaches to reduce illicit crop cultivation and consider their integration into national development policies and action plans;
- (d) Strengthen international efforts, in close cooperation with local, national and international actors, to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, including lessons learned and good practices presented during the Second International Conference on Alternative Development;
- (e) Consider the promotion of alternative livelihoods for those involved in illicit drugs-related activities in urban areas;

Technical and financial cooperation for viable economic alternatives

- (f) Strengthen technical and financial cooperation and coordination of bilateral donors and multilateral development agencies and provide long-term support for sustainable alternative development programmes targeting the illicit cultivation of crops and addressing conditions that enable the emergence of illicit drugs-related economies;
- (g) Encourage the development of viable economic alternatives to illicit cultivation of crops and to the involvement in other illicit drugs-related activities and consider financial or legal incentives for communities to cooperate with authorities;
- (h) Promote partnerships with the private sector to implement concrete measures targeted at job creation.

Recognizing that addressing the world drug problem is a complex and continuous challenge and appreciating all efforts undertaken to protect and improve the lives of peoples,

*We resolve to **redouble our collective efforts in addressing the world drug problem in the period leading up to 2019, and to take all necessary steps to implement the above-listed operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society.***