



## Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020 Theme: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

### I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **H.E. Mansoor Ahmad KHAN (Pakistan), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its 63rd session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 5 February 2020, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC at the UN headquarters in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020, on the theme “**Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**”. The input aims to highlight how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on the Commission’s area of responsibility, reflecting the interrelations with other SDGs and targets, and highlighting how it is contributing to accelerating SDG progress.

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 2020 theme.

### II. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

In March 2019, ten years after the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Ministers and government representatives met in Vienna to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, adopting 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”**, reiterating that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

While acknowledging that tangible progress had been achieved over the past decade, Member States in the declaration noted with concern the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem and committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the **full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of**

**Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document.** With the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to focus beyond 2019 on accelerating the practical implementation of the policy commitments made over the past decade, and to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem was left behind, through increased cooperation at all levels; the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem; and through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building. Member States resolved to review in the Commission in 2029 the progress in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with a mid-term review in 2024<sup>1</sup>.

In implementing the commitments made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, “accelerated action” – making a real difference on the ground – is at the core of the Commission’s agenda for 2020 and beyond, thereby contributing to the realization of the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission, supported by the CND Secretariat, has been working to support Member States with the implementation of the commitments in line with the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

#### *Thematic discussions*

A core part of the Commission’s efforts to enhance practical implementation are **thematic discussions** focused on the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. The annual thematic sessions were initiated after the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, 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.

Since the first round of CND thematic discussions in autumn 2016, around 400 Member States’ interventions were made, and around 130 representatives of civil society addressed the Commission. In over 130 contributions, experts from various UN, international and regional partners, including UNODC, UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), INCB, Interpol, Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Council of Europe, OSCE, the European Union, and the Organization of American States (OAS), contributed to the Commission’s discussions.

In order to facilitate the participation of stakeholders outside Vienna, the Commission has and will continue to enable remote participation, through the webcasting of its international meetings and thematic discussions, and the displaying of pre-recorded video-messages from interested stakeholders around the world, with a view to ensuring that also those that cannot participate in person are in a position to follow the deliberations and contribute to the work of the Commission.

#### *Regional practitioners’ meetings – the CND subsidiary bodies*

With the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States also reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and promote information sharing, in particular among judicial and law enforcement authorities, with a view

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<sup>1</sup> See 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, in the section entitled “Way forward”.

to enhancing practical implementation. The Commission's subsidiary bodies, the Meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, as well as the Subcommission for the Near and Middle East, are key to ensuring the effective implementation of international drug policy at the national and regional levels. Practitioners discuss at these meetings the implementation and follow-up to the Commission's policy documents from a regional perspective and adopt practical recommendations<sup>2</sup> for the consideration by the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

### *Information sharing*

Information sharing is key to delivering better, more efficient responses, to facilitating decision-making and to fostering innovation. Using the wealth of information shared by the various stakeholders during the CND's regular sessions and intersessional meetings, in particular during the above-mentioned thematic discussions, tools and platforms have been created to collect and share the good practices and contributions.

In addition to the Commission's regular website [cnd.unodc.org](http://cnd.unodc.org), the Secretariat has created dedicated websites for the follow-up to the 2016 UNGASS, as well as, following the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in March 2019, a website focused on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. These websites<sup>4</sup> provide detailed information on the preparatory processes and respective follow-up action taken by the Commission. Statements and presentations delivered during the thematic sessions and intersessional meetings of the Commission are also shared on these websites. The Commission's good practice portal<sup>5</sup> is another platform for Member States to share good practices in the practical implementation of international drug policies.

The Commission further uses social media to reach out to interested stakeholders, thereby providing up-to date information on meetings, documentation, links to webcasts and contributions posted on the Commissions websites (Twitter: @CND\_tweets; @UNGASS2016).

### *Supporting national implementation*

As mentioned above, in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to addressing persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem through accelerating the implementation of the joint commitments; ensuring balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses at all levels.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports Member States in delivering on the commitment of practical implementation addressing the various areas of the world drug problem, including in the implementation of drug use prevention strategies and the provision of treatment, health care, social protection and rehabilitation services as well as access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, whilst preventing diversion and abuse. UNODC also supports Member States in the implementation of effective supply reduction measures, including effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; countering

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<sup>2</sup> The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission are consolidated in a report by the Secretariat made available to the Commission for its consideration. (For further information see: E/CN.7/2020/9 Report of the Secretariat on action by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs)

<sup>3</sup> Further information on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission:

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary\\_Bodies/Subsidiary-Bodies\\_Index.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary_Bodies/Subsidiary-Bodies_Index.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/hlr/index.html>; [www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org),

<sup>5</sup> [www.postungass2016.org](http://www.postungass2016.org)

money-laundering, and promoting judicial cooperation; addressing evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats. In addition, the Office supports Member States in addressing cross-cutting issues, including human rights, as well as socioeconomic issues through regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented and balanced drug-control policy.

To foster the implementation at the national level, Member States also committed to strengthening cooperation and coordination among national authorities, particularly in the health, education, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, and between governmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders. In support, the Secretariat to the Commission offers national implementation workshops for representatives of government institutions involved in drug-related matters, to foster domestic coordination among various governmental institutions. The first national implementation workshops were offered by the Secretariat after the adoption of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, and using this methodology and format, national implementation workshops covering the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, are offered by the CND Secretariat.

### **III. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the intergovernmental body, and priority measures to accelerate action, and ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda**

In the Political declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, “*Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit*”<sup>6</sup>, Member States reiterated their determination to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda, including its goals and targets, ensuring that no one is left behind, and called for accelerated action at all levels and with all relevant stakeholders, highlighting a number of key commitments, including the inputs from the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report.

The work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs relates to a number of the commitments made in the Political Declaration of the General Assembly:

#### *Leaving no one behind*

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind, through enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges and 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 our youth and children, at the centre of international efforts.<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>6</sup> See General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/4;

<sup>7</sup> See 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, in the section entitled “Way forward”.

development, such as poverty, and social marginalization, should also be considered by States in their interventions<sup>8</sup>. The 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement reiterated the importance of taking into account the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups<sup>9</sup>, and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document called for strengthening 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 illicit crop cultivation, manufacture, 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, gender inequality and social disintegration<sup>10</sup>.

With the principle of “ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind” as a prerequisite to effectively addressing the world drug problem as well as to achieving sustainable development, the Commission has at numerous occasions emphasized the importance of taking into account 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, including through addressing 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>11</sup>

The importance of addressing specific needs of women and girls in the context of comprehensive and integrated programmes and strategies, for example, has been highlighted in a number of CND resolutions and policy documents. In “ensuring that no one is left behind”, the Commission’s work also involves addressing stigmatization and discrimination of people living with or affected by HIV, including people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs. At its sixty-second session, the Commission adopted resolution 62/6, 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*”, urging Member States to strengthen 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, eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, and strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 14 in particular its Goals 3 and 5. In CND resolution 62/7, entitled “*Promoting measures to prevent and treat viral hepatitis C attributable to drug use*”, Member States were encouraged to integrate prevention, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis, in particular associated with drug use, into universal health coverage efforts, according to national context and priorities.

The Commission also works to implement 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. At its sixty-second session, the Commission adopted resolution 62/3, entitled “*Promoting alternative development as a development oriented drug control strategy*” calling on Member States to intensify efforts in the context of long-term and

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

<sup>9</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28).

<sup>10</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 5.

<sup>11</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 5.

sustainable development programmes to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic issues, including unemployment and social marginalization, conducive to subsequent exploitation by criminal organizations involved in drug-related crime.

In “ensuring that no one is left behind”, the Commission also addresses the importance of ensuring the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse. In the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, 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<sup>12</sup>. At its sixty-second session, the Commission in its resolution 62/5, entitled “*Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes*”, underscored the importance of assisting Member States in adequately estimating and assessing their needs and reporting their requirements for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

#### *Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing.*

The importance of mobilizing adequate resources to implement the commitments made by the international community has been highlighted in the Commissions policy documents. In the 2009 Political Declaration, Member States call for increased technical and financial assistance to Member States, in particular those most directly affected by the world drug problem, in order to ensure that they have the capacity to prevent and respond to that threat in all its forms and manifestations, highlighting the importance of the full assistance of the international financial institutions and other relevant agencies in the effective implementation of policy commitments<sup>13</sup>.

In the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, Member States committed to strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem<sup>14</sup>.

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.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions*

Goal 16 is pivotal, as it recognizes that, for development to be inclusive and sustainable, it will require peace, stability, and good governance based on the rule of law. In General Assembly

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<sup>12</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Preamble.

<sup>13</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), Political Declaration;

<sup>14</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Chapter 6.

<sup>15</sup> See 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, in the section entitled “Way forward”.

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. 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, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of 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.<sup>16</sup>

The CND confirmed in its resolution 60/9, entitled “*Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies to counter illicit drug trafficking through training*”, its commitment to enhanced capacity building of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies, to counter illicit drug trafficking through training, 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.

#### *Enhancing national implementation and bolstering local action to accelerate implementation*

Empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities is vital for effective drug policy responses and the implementation of the international commitments on the ground touching upon all different aspects of the world drug problem.

The UNGASS 2016 outcome document, called for elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives, by taking into account the vulnerabilities and specific needs of communities.<sup>17</sup> This was reiterated in the Commission’s resolution 62/3, entitled “*Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy*”, adopted at the sixty-second session, calling for addressing the different socioeconomic realities of communities and to consider human rights and gender dimensions, and encouraging Member States to promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or

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<sup>16</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 5.

<sup>17</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapter 7.

at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities.

CND Resolution 61/9, entitled “*Protecting children from the illicit drug challenge*”, recalled that Member States committed in the 2030 Agenda to striving to provide children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families.

As highlighted in the previous section, a core part of the Commission’s efforts to enhance practical implementation on the ground are the CND thematic discussions focused on the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. In addition, UNODC supports the national and local implementation of policy commitments through awareness raising, technical assistance and capacity building.

### *Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership*

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 world drug problem. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States reiterated that effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem required concerted and sustained action at the national and international levels.<sup>18</sup> In its resolution 74/178, entitled “*International cooperation against the world drug problem*”, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2019, Member States reiterated that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach.

The importance of international cooperation is also reflected in the Commission’s policy documents, with a dedicated pillar on the international cooperation in the 2009 Political Declaration and a stand-alone chapter in the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, underscoring the commitment to supporting efforts at all levels, to jointly 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. These documents also recognize the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods.

In line with Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the CND is conducting its work, including its follow-up to the implementation of the policy documents, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, inviting relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as relevant non-governmental organizations to its meetings and encouraging them to actively contribute to its work. The CND has, and will continue to, invite relevant UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as a large group of non-governmental organizations to all its meetings and encourage them to actively contribute to its work.

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<sup>18</sup> See 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, Preamble.

A Youth Forum and a Scientific Forum are held at the margins of the main March meeting and representatives of those fora inform the CND about the outcome of their respective meetings, for the CND to use that input for its own deliberations. The Commission also promotes cooperation among the relevant UN entities, within their mandate, to ensuring coherent efforts to support Member States with the implementation international drug policy commitments. Cooperation also takes place among United Nations intergovernmental bodies, with the Commission actively seeking to strengthen horizontal cooperation with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

*Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development*

In the Commission's policy documents, Member States recognized the importance of a scientific evidence-based approach to the world drug problem. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States underscored the commitment 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.<sup>19</sup> In the UNGASS 2016 outcome document Member States recognized that scientific community and academia, among others, played an important role in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation, and the providing of relevant scientific evidence in support of, as appropriate, the evaluation of drug control policies and programmes.<sup>20</sup>

Science and technology also play a key role in understanding drug trends, in bringing evidence from the crime scene to the court room and addressing health concerns. In order to bring criminals to justice, police and prosecutors need evidence. Guilt or innocence can be proven through physical traces discovered and examined by forensic experts - like fingerprints, hair samples or DNA. Drugs also have their own signature. Their composition can reveal where they come from, what they are made up of, and their potency<sup>21</sup>. At its sixty-first session in 2018, the Commission adopted resolution 61/3 entitled "*Laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs*", by which it, amongst others, invited 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.

The importance of science in addressing the world drug problem was also highlighted by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology in his address to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session, underscoring that science and technological change were affecting ways that policy makers can address issues related to the prevention and rehabilitation, while creating new risks and challenges to addressing the trafficking in illicit drugs. It was highlighted, amongst others, that advances in neuroscience, for example, have upended conventional notions about addiction and provide new opportunities to create effective medications that can improve behavioral and social rehabilitation efforts.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> See 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, Preamble.

<sup>20</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, preambular part.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/laboratory.html>

<sup>22</sup> Statement by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology on 22 March 2019, under agenda item on contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### *Investing in data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals*

An underlying challenge in effectively addressing the world drug problem is the lack of comprehensive, reliable data and statistics. 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, including to further the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of global data collection is also reflected in the three international drug control conventions,<sup>23</sup> on the basis of 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 world 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 General Assembly, most recently in December 2019, invited Member States 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>24</sup>. In its resolution the General Assembly further encouraged the Commission to continue to provide input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including by providing relevant data, to contribute to the attainment of related Goals.

The three above mentioned policy documents each call for the promotion of data collection, research and the sharing of information.

In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States expressed concern about the lack of data, and the lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation by Governments, thereby highlighting the need for intensified international cooperation and support<sup>25</sup>. At the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission, on year after the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in December 2010, Member States adopted a revised Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) to enable the monitoring of and the biennial reporting to the Commission on the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as for the reporting to the Commission on the basis of the three international drug control conventions. The first reports resulting from this revised ARQ were considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fifth session in 2012.

The 2016 UNGASS outcome document promotes the value of reliable, comparable, objective and quality statistics across all drug domains.<sup>26</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

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<sup>23</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>24</sup> See General Assembly resolution 74/178

<sup>25</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), Political Declaration;

<sup>26</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5.

populations and communities<sup>27</sup> and they committed to enhance the quality and consistency of reported data.<sup>28</sup>

In its resolution 60/1 of March 2017, the Commission invited the UNODC, 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. The UNODC convened the first Expert Working Group on Improving Drug Statistics and Strengthening of the ARQ from 29 to 31 January 2018<sup>29</sup>.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States further committed to continue to promote and improve the collection, analysis and sharing of quality and comparable data, with a view to strengthening national data-collection capacity to improve the response rate and expand the geographical and thematic reporting of related data in accordance with all commitments. In the Declaration, UNODC was requested, in close cooperation with Member States, to continue, in an inclusive manner, expert-level consultations on strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire and to reflect on possibilities to review other existing tools for the collection and analysis of drug control data as deemed necessary to reflect and assess progress made in the implementation of all commitments contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and to submit an improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire for consideration at the sixty-third session of the Commission.<sup>30</sup> A second meeting of the Expert Working Group was convened by UNODC from 28 to 30 August 2019<sup>31</sup>, followed by a pilot exercise<sup>32</sup> in October 2019 with 35 Member States, and online consultations with Member States in December 2019<sup>33</sup>.

#### **IV. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies**

The Commission values the cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies, including the brother and sister functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. While each of the Commissions has a specific mandate, there are many cross-cutting elements they share. It is therefore important to step up joint efforts to enhance cooperation and collaboration thereby advancing the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals while avoiding duplication of our efforts.<sup>34</sup>

In 2019, CND continued its efforts to enhance horizontal 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, the Statistical

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

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

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Drugs/2018EGM\\_Presentations/FinalReport.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Drugs/2018EGM_Presentations/FinalReport.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> See 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, in the section entitled “Way forward”.

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/2n\\_EGM\\_Outcome\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/2n_EGM_Outcome_Report_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/pilot-testing-of-the-newly-drafted-arq.html>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/consultation-annual-report-questionnaire-2019.html>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/commissions-2030.html>

Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including through organizing joint events on cross-cutting issues.

- As mentioned above, at the sixty-second session in March 2019, the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) addressed CND under the agenda item entitled “*Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”.
- At the occasion of the Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2019, a side event was organized on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The event, organized by UNODC and the government of Japan as host of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, provided a platform for subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, including CND, CCPCJ, CSW, to contribute to the preparations for the 2020 Congress, and to discuss how their respective bodies’ work contributes to advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.
- A joint event was organized by the Vienna-based Commissions, CND and CCPCJ, at the occasion of the visit of the President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés in August 2019. The event, hosted by the Chairs of the Commissions, highlighted contributions of the Vienna-based Commissions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- In support of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, CND and CCPCJ will jointly organize during the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ (18-22 May 2020) a high-level event to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The high-level event aims to raise awareness for the commitments made in 1995 in Beijing, in particular in relation to the work of the Commissions in Vienna and UNODC, thereby highlighting joint contributions to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a goal central to the work of the Vienna-based Commissions, who have in recent years considerably increased the attention devoted to the issue of gender equality through the adoption of a number of targeted resolutions and policy commitments. In addition to the creation of a dedicated website<sup>35</sup> on contributions to SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, the Commissions have devoted special attention to the issue of gender mainstreaming, joining efforts to promote the use of gender-inclusive communication, including through the informal “Let’s Talk Gender” meetings.

## **V. Recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.**

The following recommendations may be considered for the HLPF declaration:

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<sup>35</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/commissions-2030\\_implementation-of-sdg-5.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/commissions-2030_implementation-of-sdg-5.html)

- Recognize that the world drug problem undermines socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development<sup>36</sup> and commit to 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 our youth and children, at the centre of our efforts;
- Reiterate that 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;
- 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;
- 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;

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<sup>36</sup> See General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/183.