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Draft report

Rapporteur: Alvaro Salcedo Teullet (Peru)

Addendum

Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

1. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 20 March 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 11, entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session”.
2. For its consideration of item 11, the Commission had before it the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex).
3. Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC and by a representative of the secretariat to the Commission.
4. A statement was made by the observer for Romania on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.¹
5. Statements were also made by the representatives of Thailand, France, Japan, the United States, China, Switzerland, Pakistan, Algeria, Mexico, the Sudan, Belgium, South Africa, Canada, the Republic of Korea and Norway.
6. Statements were also made by the observers for Nigeria, Jamaica and Indonesia.
7. A statement was made by the observer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Statements were also made by the observers for IOGT International, Campaign for Development and Solidarity (FORUT), Smart Approaches to Marijuana, Harm Reduction International, Corporación Acción Técnica Social, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, the International Drug Policy

¹ The following countries aligned themselves with the statement: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine.



Consortium, the New Zealand Drug Foundation, the Women and Harm Reduction International Network and the Harm Reduction Coalition.

Deliberations

8. A number of speakers reiterated that, in line with 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, the focus beyond 2019 was to be on the practical implementation of joint commitments, including those made in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, held in 2016, and its operational recommendations. A number of speakers recalled the complementary and mutually reinforcing nature of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, with several speakers noting that the outcome document represented the most recent consensus and was the most comprehensive and ambitious policy document of those three documents.

9. Many speakers reiterated their commitment to the practical implementation of the more than 100 operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document. Many speakers reported on their national efforts to implement the operational recommendations of all the thematic chapters, stressing that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility, with human beings at the centre of policies and programmes.

10. Many speakers reiterated their commitment to the effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions, underscoring that the conventions constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Many speakers highlighted the relevance of other international instruments, including relevant human rights instruments, that complemented the international drug control conventions. Several speakers reiterated their commitment to actively promoting a society free of drug abuse and expressed concern that the deregulation or legalization of certain substances in some regions of the world was contrary to the three international drug control conventions. Some speakers made reference to the annual report of INCB for 2018 (E/INCB/2018/1).

11. Several speakers highlighted the importance of implementing the operational recommendations of the 2016 outcome document regarding proportionate and effective policies and responses to drug-related offences, with some speakers sharing information on national initiatives to implement alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences in appropriate cases of a minor nature, taking into consideration socioeconomic factors. Several speakers called for the abolition of the death penalty, including for drug-related offences.

12. Several speakers underscored the need to focus on implementing effective and practical policies, including through gender- and age-specific measures. Many speakers underlined the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory access to prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes. One speaker, while highlighting efforts to promote the implementation of Commission resolution 61/2, entitled “Strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings”, referred to the conference room paper transmitting a summary of the high-level expert group meeting on preventing drug abuse in educational settings: fostering regional cooperation and partnership (E/CN.7/2019/CRP.9).

13. Several speakers shared information on national drug demand reduction efforts, including those referred to as harm reduction programmes, which were considered to be part of a comprehensive package of measures that included prevention, early

intervention, treatment, social reintegration, rehabilitation and recovery measures, including to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including in prison settings.

14. Many speakers welcomed the thematic chapter of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session dedicated to the topic of the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and reported on national efforts in that regard. Some speakers emphasized the importance of increased international cooperation and of providing capacity-building, technical assistance and targeted training for health professionals and competent national authorities in that regard.

15. Furthermore, some speakers shared information on their national efforts to implement the operational recommendations on addressing the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, and highlighted the importance of mutual legal assistance.

16. Many speakers referred to the persistent and emerging threats posed by new psychoactive substances, synthetic opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants. Moreover, some speakers underscored the need to address the growing challenge posed by the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals, while ensuring that efforts to address that challenge would not negatively affect the availability of pharmaceuticals for medical and scientific purposes.

17. Many speakers expressed support for the inclusion of alternative development strategies in national drug control policies. They highlighted that, according to the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, efforts to address and counter the world drug problem and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

18. Underscoring the importance of collecting and sharing data, several speakers called for strengthening and streamlining the annual report questionnaire to reflect progress made in the implementation of all commitments at the national, regional and international levels, as highlighted in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

19. A number of speakers reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission as the primary United Nations policymaking body for drug-related matters. In addition, several speakers highlighted the important roles played by all relevant United Nations entities, in particular UNODC, WHO and INCB, and underscored the importance of cooperation at all levels and of the contributions by all relevant stakeholders.

20. Some speakers welcomed the holding of thematic discussions during the sessions of the Commission since 2016 and encouraged the Commission to continue the thematic discussions focused on the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and concrete activities in support of the practical implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.