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Draft report

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Addendum

Ministerial segment

A. Opening of the ministerial segment

1. The ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held on 14 and 15 March 2019. The ministerial segment was opened by the Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission. A total of [...] States participated in the ministerial segment.

B. General debate of the ministerial segment

2. At the 1st meeting of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was also the 1st meeting of the ministerial segment, on 14 March, the following persons made statements:

Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhiet, Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations (Vienna) and Chair of the Commission

Ceremonial opening

Representatives of the Youth Forum

Representatives of the Scientific Network

Jamie Bridge, on behalf of the Civil Society Task Force on Drugs

Formal opening

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly (video message)

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video message)

Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna



Viroj Sumyai, President of the International Narcotics Control Board

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (video message)

Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

Vivian Okeke, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Bin Hu, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States)

Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship of the European Commission (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union)¹

Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Herbert Kickl, Minister of the Interior of Austria

Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Jorge Alberto Arreaza Montserrat, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister of Home Affairs of Singapore

Aurelijus Veryga, Minister of Health of Lithuania

Bent Høie, Minister of Health and Care Services of Norway

Adam Vojtěch, Minister of Health of Czechia

Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand

Gloria María Borrero, Minister of Justice and Law of Colombia

Marvin Hanlon Dames, Minister of National Security of the Bahamas

Zlatibor Lončar, Minister of Health of Serbia

María Verónica Espinosa Serrano, Minister of Public Health of Ecuador

Teodoro López Locsin, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

Susan Shabangu, Minister of Social Development of South Africa

Bruno Bruins, Minister of Medical Care of the Netherlands

3. At the 2nd meeting of the sixty-second session of the Commission, on 14 March, the following persons made statements:

Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia

Abubakar Malami, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria

Kenji Yamada, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Ram Bahadur Thapa Magar, Minister for Home Affairs of Nepal

Kyaw Swe, Union Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar

Juan Andrés Roballo Albero, Deputy Secretary, Office of the President of Uruguay

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

Kirsten D. Madison, Special Representative of the Secretary of State, Department of State of the United States of America

Tayla Lador-Fresher, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (Vienna)

Jarosław Pinkas, Chief Sanitary Inspector of Poland

Al Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed Al Dikhairi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan²

Svetlana Yordanova, Deputy Minister of Health of Bulgaria

Andrej Benedejcic, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Dorthe Søndergaard, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Denmark

Mohammad Malaheem, Deputy Director, General Police Directorate for Criminal Security Affairs of Jordan

Sherkhon Salimzoda, Director, Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan

Elinda C.A. Mohammad, Deputy Minister, Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam

Raquel Duarte, Secretary of State for Health of Portugal

Dae Jin Yun, Deputy Minister, Chief Public Prosecutor, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea

Claude Karam, Judge, President of the First Chamber, Court of Cassation, Ministry of Justice of Lebanon

Suiunbek Omurzakov, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan

Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna)

Idrees Zaman, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Afghanistan

Raed Arafat, Secretary of State, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania

4. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

5. At the 3rd meeting of the session, on 14 March, the following persons made statements:

Battungalag Gankhurai, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ana Isabel Lima Fernández, Secretary of State for Social Services, Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare of Spain

Heru Winarko, Commissioner General Police, Head of the National Narcotics Agency of Indonesia

Zhanat Suleimenov, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan

Marlene Mortler, Federal Government Drug Commissioner, Federal Ministry of Health of Germany

Usama Al-Nashy, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations (Vienna)

² Also delivered a statement on behalf of the League of Arab States.

Abdul Aziz Mayoof Alromaihi, Director General, General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence and Rapporteur, National Committee for Narcotics Control of Bahrain

Xiaojun Wei, Deputy Secretary-General, National Narcotics Control Commission and Deputy Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Public Security of China

Arnaldo Giuzzio Benítez, Minister and Executive Secretary, National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Paraguay

Orazsahet Seydyllayev, Head, Fourth Directorate, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan

Ahmed Alzahrani, Director General, Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia

Mohamed Mezghani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Marco Balarezo Lizarzaburu, Director General for Global and Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

Safaa Shabat, Alternate Representative, Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations (Vienna)

6. At the 4th meeting of the session, on 15 March, the following persons made statements:

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

Ambrose Dery, Minister of the Interior of Ghana

Andreas Xanthos, Minister of Health of Greece

Arsen Torosyan, Minister of Health of Armenia

Michael Falzon, Minister for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity of Malta

Sandra Erica Jovel Polanco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala

Stuart H. Getrouw, Minister of Justice and Police of Suriname

Oscar Manuel Silvera Martínez, Minister of Justice of Cuba

Ebrima Mballow, Minister of the Interior of the Gambia

Saeed Abdulla Saeed Towayer Alsuwaidi, Director General, Federal General Department of Anti-Narcotics, Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates

Ahmet Muhtar Gün, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations (Vienna)

Michelle Boudreau, Director General, Controlled Substances Directorate of Health Canada

Eskandar Momeni Kalaghari, Secretary-General, Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Patrick Ole Ntutu, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of the Interior and Coordination of Kenya

Elena Rafti, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations (Vienna)

Pirkko Hämäläinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations (Vienna)

Todd Kriebel, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health of New Zealand

Arif Nawaz Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control of Pakistan

Andrés Alexander Ramírez Medrano, Executive Director, National Anti-Drug Commission of El Salvador

Luis Humeau, Director of Security and Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

Željko Plazonić, State Secretary, Ministry of Health of Croatia

Abdulla Nasser Al-Hajri, Second Secretary, Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna)

Sithong Chitnhothinh, Permanent Representative of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

Roberto Esteban Moro, Secretary of State and Head, Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina

7. At the 5th meeting of the session, on 15 March, the following persons made statements:

Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations (Vienna)

Nicolas Prisse, President, Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours of France

Gwen Nightingale, Head, Drugs and Alcohol Unit, Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Maria Assunta Accili Sabbatini, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (Vienna)

Catherine Byrne, Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Department of Health of Ireland

Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations (Vienna)

Gloria Navarrete, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations (Vienna)³

Alena Kupchyna, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations (Vienna)

Khaled Aldain, Assistant Under-Secretary for Criminal Security Affairs, Ministry of the Interior of Kuwait

Francis Contreras, President Commissioner, Sanitary Regulations Agency of Honduras

Brendon Charles Hammer, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Revenue Secretary, Department of Revenue of India

Nora Romero Kronig, Vice-Director General of the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland

Alita Mbahwe, Commissioner, Drug Enforcement Commission of Zambia

Ghislain d’Hoop, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations (Vienna)

Károly Dán, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations (Vienna)

Helena Mateus Kida, Deputy Minister of the Interior of Mozambique

³ Also delivered a statement on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Special Envoy of the President of Mexico

Van Son Nguyen, Deputy Minister of Public Security of Viet Nam⁴

Toomas Kukk, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Cheryl Kay Spencer, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations (Geneva and Vienna)

8. At the 6th meeting of the session, on 15 March, the following persons made statements:

Rolando Rodríguez Cedeño, Secretary-General, Office of the Attorney General of Panama

Lotfi Bouchaara, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Vienna)

Md. Shahiduzzaman, Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh

Leonito Bacalando, Chief, Law Division, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia

Yousuf Ahmed Al Jabri, Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations (Vienna)

Leonardo Europeu Inocencio, Secretary of State for Health Care, Ministry of Health of Angola

Mamadou Krouma, Secretary-General of the Interministerial Committee Against Drugs of Côte d'Ivoire

Jalal Alashi, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations (Vienna)

Frederick Milanzi, Commissioner of Operations, Drug Prevention and Enforcement Authority of the United Republic of Tanzania

Janusz Urbańczyk, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations (Vienna)

Zaved Mahmood, Human Rights and Drug Policy Adviser, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union

Ninan Varughese, Senior Adviser, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Gilles Forte, Coordinator, Essential Medicines and Health Products, World Health Organization

Alberto Dona, Alternate Permanent Representative, Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Vladimir Norov, Secretary-General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Mikhail Melikhov, Adviser, Collective Security Treaty Organization

Farah Urrutia, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States

Lasha Gogvadze, Senior Officer, Health and Care Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Thomas Greminger, Secretary-General, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

⁴ Also delivered a statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Summary of the salient points of the general debate

9. The Chair's summary of the salient points of the general debate, which were not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

10. The adoption of the 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 was welcomed and confidence was expressed that that international consensus would spur the global community to accelerate the implementation of all joint commitments made in the last decade to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, which was universally considered to be a common and shared responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of all humanity.

11. The three international drug control conventions were recognized as the cornerstone of the international drug control system, allowing States parties sufficient flexibility to design and implement national drug policies in accordance with their priorities and needs, in line with their obligations under the existing conventions and instruments. Efforts made by States parties to comply with the provisions of those conventions and to ensure their effective implementation were welcomed and encouraged, while concern was expressed about the legalization of substances, including cannabis, controlled under the conventions.

12. It was highlighted that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the 2014 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 of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" represented the commitments made by the international community to address and counter the world drug problem, and it was recognized that those documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

13. It was acknowledged that tangible progress had been achieved in the implementation of those commitments over the past decade, and it was noted with concern that persistent and emerging challenges remained. It was also acknowledged that Member States, including transit States, faced multifaceted challenges, and the continuing need for cooperation and mutual support was reaffirmed. It was stated that the implementation of all the commitments made could contribute to the achievement of the goals set in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. The role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters was reiterated, and enhanced cooperation between the Commission and the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, within their treaty-based mandates, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other relevant United Nations entities, was encouraged.

15. Some speakers reaffirmed their determination to actively promote and achieve the goal of a society free of drug abuse.

16. The importance of a comprehensive, balanced, scientific evidence-based and people-centred approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem was underlined, bearing in mind the specific needs of women, youth and vulnerable members of society.

17. Promoting the health of all members of society and facilitating healthy lifestyles through scientific evidence-based prevention measures and prevention of drug abuse, in particular among young people, was highlighted.

18. Drug dependence was recognized as a complex health disorder that could be prevented and treated through scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes. It was also recognized that the

transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use could effectively be addressed through measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.

19. Access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes was considered to be unevenly distributed globally and in need of improvement by appropriately addressing existing barriers to access, while preventing the diversion and abuse of, and trafficking in, such substances.

20. It was considered to be important, in developing and implementing drug policies, to protect the human rights of all members of society, including by ensuring access to health services for those in contact with the criminal justice system for drug-related offences, paying due attention to the needs of members of society who are particularly vulnerable.

21. Concern was expressed about the opioid crisis currently affecting some parts of the world, as well as about the emerging challenges related to new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the growing misuse and diversion of pharmaceuticals and precursors.

22. Protecting the safety and security of all people by intensifying efforts to prevent and counter illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of, and trafficking in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was identified as a priority.

23. Countering drug-related crime and violence through more effective criminal justice approaches, as well as by addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, including in connection with corruption and the financing of terrorism, were also identified as important aspects of supply reduction. Bilateral and regional cooperation in criminal matters, such as information exchange and joint law enforcement operations, was encouraged. Measures to address the use of the Internet and the darknet, as well as electronic payment methods, for criminal purposes were stressed as important contributions to countering drug-related crime.

24. It was highlighted that alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment, in appropriate cases, were in accordance with the international drug control conventions. Proportionate and effective drug policies and responses were encouraged, and the protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies was called for.

25. Some speakers reaffirmed their opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences.

26. It was stressed that comprehensive alternative development programmes could support sustainable development strategies and the reduction of illicit crop cultivation and contribute to the prevention of drug-related crime in urban contexts.

27. Alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development by offering licit and viable economic alternatives to affected populations was deemed important. The need to intensify efforts to address drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, social marginalization and stigma, was recognized. A strengthened development perspective was encouraged as part of comprehensive and balanced drug policies and could help address the causes and consequences of illicit cultivation and production of and trafficking in drugs.

28. The importance of strengthening technical assistance, including through North-South, South-South and triangular initiatives, and resource mobilization to that effect, was stressed. The sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the context of the meetings of the Commission was also highlighted in that regard.

29. It was emphasized that relevant and reliable data collection at the national and international levels was crucial and required improvement, including through technical cooperation, to inform evidence-based decision-making. The need for the collection of reliable and comparable data, at the national and international levels,

including through a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire reflecting all commitments, was stressed.

30. It was recognized that the world drug problem could only be addressed effectively in an inclusive manner, with all stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community and relevant United Nations entities, playing their respective roles.

C. Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment

31. Round-table discussions were held on 14 and 15 March 2019 on the following themes:

(a) Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges;

(b) Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility.

Summary of the salient points of the round table on taking stock of the implementation of all commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem

32. At the 6th meeting, on 15 March, the salient points of the first round table were presented by the Chair of that round table, Maria Jahrman Bjerke (Norway), nominated by the Group of Western European and other States. A summary of the salient points, which were not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

33. Many participants acknowledged that tangible progress had been achieved in the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade to address and counter the world drug problem, including with regard to an improved understanding of the problem, the development, elaboration and implementation of national strategies and enhanced sharing of information.

34. Other achievements included a more responsive scheduling system and the adoption by many countries of scientific evidence-based approaches prioritizing public health and human rights.

35. However, speakers noted that, since 2009, both the range of drugs and drug markets had expanded and diversified. The illicit cultivation and production of narcotic drugs such as opium were at record high levels, as was the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors. The number of deaths associated with the use of drugs remained significant, and many countries still failed to provide adequate drug treatment and health services. The Governments most affected often did not have the means to address the problem.

36. Among other persistent and emerging challenges were poly-drug use, the abuse of prescription drugs and the increases in drug-related violence and homicide rates.

37. It was also noted that women were underrepresented in the access to treatment services and that stigma and human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, continued to exist. The availability of internationally controlled substances for the relief of pain and palliative care remained low to non-existent in many parts of the world.

38. In the view of participants, a particular challenge was posed by new psychoactive substances, including fentanyl and its analogues, other opioids and methamphetamine, for which there was a lack of sufficient prevention, treatment and

legislative measures. Countries should reduce illicit synthetic drug production, strengthen the capacity to detect new psychoactive substances, target online sales and trafficking and reduce global demand for those substances.

39. Speakers also referred to the illicit financial flows and money-laundering related to drug trafficking and noted that there was insufficient information on the illegal networks used to commit those crimes. Bilateral, international and regional cooperation was fundamental to countering those phenomena and States needed to act together to identify, seize, confiscate and return the proceeds of crime.

40. Several speakers noted that the adherence to and implementation of the drug control conventions were key to international drug control, and that the legalization of the non-medical use of cannabis in some regions represented a challenge to public health and the well-being of young people.

41. Many participants acknowledged that the international community needed to strengthen its responses to cope with persisting and emerging drug-related challenges and gaps, share more information and analyses and deploy more resources.

42. In the view of many participants, the next decade should be dedicated to the joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, with a focus on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

43. Speakers also recognized that the aspirational goals established in 2009 for the reduction of drug demand and supply remained valid beyond 2019, and that all of the documents should be implemented in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

44. It was reported that progress had been made in increasing the number of Member States submitting the annual report questionnaire, but that the geographical coverage and availability of reliable data needed improvement. Support was expressed for the Office's efforts to update the questionnaire.

**Summary of the salient points of the round table on safeguarding the future:
enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through
strengthening international cooperation**

45. Also at the sixth meeting, the salient points of the second round table were presented by the Chair of that round table, Juan Ramón de la Fuente (Mexico), nominated by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A summary of the salient points, which were not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

46. With a view to accelerating the implementation of the commitments made in the past decade, participants highlighted the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and recognizing that "one size does not fit all", as well as of joint efforts focused on the implementation of integrated, balanced, multidisciplinary, scientific evidence-based, comprehensive, and human rights-based approaches. In that regard, many speakers underscored the mutually reinforcing and complementary nature of 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, held in 2016.

47. Speakers recalled the commitment shared by Member States and the international community to promote and implement effective drug policies based on the international conventions and other relevant instruments, as well as on the political commitments made over the past decade.

48. Speakers reiterated that the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments remained the cornerstone of international drug policy. A number of speakers underscored that the conventions allowed sufficient flexibility for Member States to design and implement national drug policies in accordance with their priorities and needs, and consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

49. Acknowledging its shortcomings, speakers recognized the urgent need for an in-depth revision of the prevailing approach.

50. Focused on strengthening the public health approach, several other speakers called for the decriminalization of drug abuse, while others expressed concern for developments taking place in different parts of the world regarding controlled substances. The importance of implementing proportionate and effective national policies, including alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences in appropriate cases, was highlighted by several speakers.

51. In implementing the joint commitments made over the past decade, many speakers stressed the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking.

52. Several speakers underscored the need to ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health consequences of drug abuse, and underlined the need to provide specialized programmes that respond to the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, including women, youth and children. In addition, the importance of designing and implementing appropriate interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use was emphasized.

53. With regard to persistent and new challenges, many speakers highlighted the need to respond to the expanding and diversifying range of drugs and drug markets, and the increasing risks posed by, inter alia, new psychoactive substances, including synthetic opioids, as well as the non-medical use of prescription drugs. Some speakers also highlighted the need to address the increasing number of links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, as well as the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities. A number of speakers underscored the importance of strengthening cross-border operational cooperation, enhancing cooperation in criminal matters, and addressing the illicit diversion of precursors.

54. In that connection, speakers underscored the urgent need to develop innovative responses and strengthen cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, in order to face the new challenges posed by the evolving trends and patterns in production, trafficking and consumption.

55. Several speakers highlighted the need to continue mobilizing resources for the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, to ensure that all Member States, in particular those most affected by the world drug problem, including by illicit cultivation and production, transit and consumption, can effectively address and counter the world drug problem.

56. Enhanced cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, as well as the sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned, among all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, civil society, the scientific community and academia, were identified by many speakers as crucial elements in accelerating the practical implementation of the joint commitments made by the international community.

57. A number of speakers underlined the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encouraged UNODC to further increase its cooperation with other United Nations entities.

58. Several speakers underlined the importance of strengthening the development perspective in comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes, including alternative development programmes, thereby addressing the causes and consequences of the illicit cultivation, manufacture, production of and

trafficking in drugs, which included drug-related violence, poverty, exclusion, marginalization, stigmatization and social disintegration.

59. Many speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring that drug policies were developed and implemented in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the importance of high-quality and reliable data, and emphasized the need to improve the collection, analysis and sharing of data. In that regard, a number of speakers reiterated the call to UNODC to support, in cooperation with relevant partners, Member States in strengthening and streamlining existing data-collection and analysis tools, including by improving the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire.

D. Adoption of the draft 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

60. At the 1st meeting, on 14 March 2019, the ministers and government representatives participating in the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted the 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.

61. Before the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, a representative of the Secretariat made reference to the statement of financial implications as contained in document E/CN.7/2019/CRP.11.

E. Closure of the ministerial segment

62. A closing statement was made by the Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission.
