

## **ECOSOC MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**June 2024 Video-message**

**H.E. Ambassador Philbert JOHNSON**

**Chair of the 67<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

### **Slide 1**

Good afternoon Excellencies. It is my pleasure to provide you with some information on the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the CND, from 14 to 22 March 2024. Regrettably, I am unable to attend in person.

### **Slide 2 [Transition slide]**

### **Slide 3**

The 67<sup>th</sup> session was attended by over **2,500 participants** from a diverse range of stakeholders. There was also a record number of **172 side events and 33 exhibitions**.

### **Slide 4**

In 2019, the CND adopted the Ministerial Declaration, calling for the accelerated implementation of our international drug policy commitments. With the end-of-cycle review set in 2029, 2024 was

designated for the midterm review of the progress made in its implementation.

To do this, in addition to the regular segment in March, the Commission organized a 2-day high-level segment, where the High-Level Declaration on the 2024 Midterm review was adopted.

### **Slide 5**

The High-Level Declaration starts by recalling the shared commitments from the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. In the stocktaking part, Member States **made reference to the existing challenges identified in 2019**. It also identified **intensified and new challenges**. In charting the way forward, Member States highlighted the need to focus on **cross-cutting issues**, including cooperation, data collection, technological innovation and resource mobilization.

### **Slide 6**

The high-level segment included two multi-stakeholder round tables on **Taking stock** and discussing **The way forward**.

### **Slide 7**

I also launched a Pledge4Action initiative to mobilize Member States' commitment to concrete actions addressing the key

challenges outlined in the 2019 Declaration. 67 pledges were made, and more information can be found on the dedicated website.

In the lead-up to the end-of-cycle review in 2029, Member States will have ample opportunities to provide updates on the progress of their pledges.

### **Slide 8**

The Commission adopted four resolutions. Two resolutions were adopted by consensus (one on recovery for people with drug use disorders; and the other on access and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes). For the first time, two resolutions were adopted by a vote (a resolution on alternative development and a resolution on preventing and responding to drug overdose).

### **Slide 9**

In addition, the Commission adopted a record number of twenty-three **decisions on the scope of control of substances under the international drug control conventions.**

For the first time, the Commission took decisions to schedule substances that do not meet the requirement related to “frequency of

use in illicit drug manufacture”, but which are closely related and may be readily converted or used in place of other substances for illicit manufacture, in reference to CND resolution 65/3.

The Commission made two additional decisions on including the named esters in the **footnote** of specified substances.

**Slide 10** [Transition slide]

**Slide 11**

On 8 May 2024, the Commission adopted the workplan for the 2024 to 2028 thematic discussions through silence procedure. The workplan proposes an annual intersessional meeting, starting in 2024, with comprehensive stock-taking in 2028 over two meetings.

The workplan is structured along the **challenges identified in the 2019 Declaration**. Moreover, during each meeting, **time will be devoted to “Other substantive matters”**, to allow Member States to raise persistent, new, or emerging issues of concern.

**Slide 12** [Transition slide]

### **Slide 13**

In February this year, I held a round table at the margins of the ECOSOC Coordination Segment, to foster collaboration between CND and ECOSOC functional commissions and subsidiary bodies. I would like to thank all the sister and brother commissions that contributed.

### **Slide 14**

The Commission has also provided **substantive written input to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, and aims to organize a side event, with the CCPCJ, at the margins of the HLPF in July.

### **Slide 15**

I have also, in my capacity as Chair of the Commission submitted a written contribution for inclusion in the Pact of the Future.

### **Slide 16**

Thank you for your attention, and I also thank the Secretary of the Commission for being present and available to address any queries.