

**Remarks delivered via video message
H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**“Special Event of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs for
the launch of the 2016 World Drug Report”**

June 23, 2016

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address this Special Event of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking and also celebrating the launch of UNODC's flagship publication: the World Drug Report 2016.

This event takes place at a very important time. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we got an ambitious new framework with 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We have shared responsibility in

achieving these goals as well as in addressing the world drug problem.

Shared responsibility is a principle at the heart of the work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs plays an important role in this context.

I would like to welcome UNODC's decision to devote an entire chapter of this year's World Drug Report to viewing the world drug problem through the lens of the SDGs.

Under the auspices of ECOSOC, the 2016 session of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be held in July to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The forum will fully assume its central role in overseeing a network of review and follow-up processes at the global level. The theme of the 2016 session is "Ensuring that no one is left behind."

I have invited all ECOSOC functional commissions to contribute to the HLPF, showcasing their diverse contributions to the 2030 agenda and to the theme of leaving no one behind.

I would like to thank the CND for its valuable contribution, submitted by Ambassador Vladimír Galuška in his capacity as Chair of the 59th session of the Commission.

The Commission has long taken a broad development approach to address links between drug-related issues and sustainable development. As such, efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

This was highlighted in the recently adopted outcome document of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem which was very ably prepared by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs under the leadership of the UNGASS Board.

With the 2030 Agenda now guiding our common undertaking, I am certain that the World Drug Report 2016 will



be an invaluable tool to assist Member States in the quest for our ambitious goals.

Thank you.