

# ECOSOC Management Segment

8 June 2022

## DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR H.E. Mr. Ghislain D'HOOP, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-fifth session

### *SLIDE 1 – Introduction; Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic*

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Mr./Madam Chair,

Distinguished representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chair of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it is my great pleasure to brief you today on the recent work of the Commission. Allow me to start by pointing out that “**Narcotic Drugs**”, the title of the sub-item of the agenda right now, does not any more reflect the broad scope of the Commission’s mandate and work. I will in the next few minutes provide you with an update on the work of the Commission which covers **all aspects of the world drug problem**.

### *SLIDE 2 – 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission*

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The sixty-fifth session of the Commission was held from 14 to 18 March 2022 in a hybrid format, both in person and online through a customized event platform. Despite the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the session was attended by over **1,300 participants** representing **132 Member States, 7 UN Bodies and Agencies, 16 intergovernmental organizations** and **80 non-governmental organizations**.

At the margins of the March meeting, **120 side events** were organized, co-sponsored by Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society.

The Commission adopted **four resolutions**, on a wide range of topics, as well as **six decisions**.

### ***SLIDE 3 – Resolutions***

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The resolutions adopted at the sixty-fifth session address different aspects of the world drug problem, such as:

- Alternative development, including taking into account measures to protect the environment,
- Links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking,
- Diversion of non-scheduled chemicals, and
- Comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention.

As you can see on the slide, in all these resolutions you will find a direct link to the sustainable development goals.

### ***SLIDE 4 – Decisions and Event on 28 June***

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Through the **six decisions** adopted at the sixty-fifth session, the Commission **added new substances to the schedules of the 1961, 1971, and 1988 Conventions**, as reflected on the screen.

The next intersessional meeting of the Commission will be held on 28 June. I would like to invite all of you to commemorate with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**. At the event, the 2022 World Drug Report will also be launched. The annual World Drug Report presents an overview of the current trends on global drug markets and the latest information on drug use, production, and trafficking. In 2022, it will also analyse issues such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relationship between drugs and conflict, and the impact on drugs on the environment. Please join us for this special event, which will be webcast, more info can be found on our website!

### ***SLIDE 5 - Access & Availability Initiative***

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On the opening day of the sixty-fifth session of the CND, I had the honor, together with the Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Ghada Waly; the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; and the President of INCB, Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, to hold the **Joint Call to Action on Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes**. The Joint Call to Action raised awareness for the critical need to improve the availability of, and access to, controlled medicines globally, including in emergency situations to ensure that no patient is left behind.

The Commission and the relevant United Nations entities deemed it timely to hold the Joint Call given how recent developments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have aggravated the global crisis of lack of access to controlled medicines. We called upon national governments and the international community to honor the international drug policy commitments on improving the availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure that **no patient is left behind**.

The Joint Call to Action continues with events and social media campaigns throughout the 65<sup>th</sup> session. At the margins of this meeting, there is a **Special Event co-organized with the Permanent Mission of Austria and the Kingdom of Belgium**. Please join us on 8 June 2022 at 1:15 in Conference Room 3! We are also looking forward to holding an event in Geneva in July and a 1-day forum later this year.

### ***SLIDE 6 - Follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration***

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As you will recall, at the sixty-second session of the CND, Member States adopted the **Ministerial Declaration** on accelerating the implementation of the joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem.

Member States further adopted a **multi-year workplan** up to 2024, which foresees annual thematic sessions to discuss the different challenges identified in the Declaration and how those can be addressed in the lead up to the mid-term review in 2024. This year's **thematic discussions will be held on 21-22 September** on one challenge identified in the Ministerial Declaration, namely that:

- Responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Last year's thematic discussions allowed for an interactive exchange of good practices and lessons learnt among more than 600 policy-makers, experts, representatives of civil society and academia.

### ***SLIDE 7– HONLEAs***

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I would also like to brief you on the work of the **CND subsidiary bodies**.

The meetings of the so-called **HONLEAs** – the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies for Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean – and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East gather relevant national experts in the respective region, to foster an interactive discussion on the salient policy and

enforcement issues in their regions as well as on the recommended action to address those challenges.

Due to the volatility of the COVID-19 situation worldwide, the 2021 meetings of the CND subsidiary bodies were held online. The next regular sessions of these subsidiary bodies are envisaged to be held between September and November 2022 in person again.

### ***SLIDE 8 – Review of Subsidiary Bodies***

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I would also like to make reference to the Review of Subsidiary Bodies, in which the CND has taken a **very active role along with its sister Commission, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**. Apart from the ECOSOC-wide meetings and briefings, the two Chairs held trilateral dialogues with Ambassador Stoeva and we held a joint CND-CCPCJ dialogue with the membership of the two Commissions to solicit views and proposals of delegations. Following this comprehensive and inclusive process, the CND submitted an **assessment of its work** to the Council in April 2022. I would like to thank Ambassador Stoeva for her leadership and am looking forward to further analysing the recommendations with a view to translating it into concrete action by the CND.

### ***SLIDE 9 – HLPF***

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Further, the Commission has also this year provided **substantive written input to the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** on the theme “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. As was the case last year, the CND aims at organizing, together with the CCPCJ, a side event at the margins of the HLPF.

### ***SLIDE 10 - Websites***

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You can find all relevant information related to the CND on the website, which I invite you to visit.

I also encourage you to visit the Commission’s webpage dedicated to the follow-up to 2019 Ministerial Segment.

Thank you very much for your attention.