

ECOSOC Management Segment

22 July 2021

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR H.E. Ms. Dominika KROIS, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-fourth session

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

Mr./Madam Chair,

Distinguished representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chair of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it is my great pleasure to brief you today on the work of the Commission.

SLIDE 2 – 64th session of the Commission

I would first like to share a few words on the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, held from 12 to 16 April 2021 in a hybrid format. With limited in-person participation in Vienna, we had a large number of participants from different parts of the world joining online.

The session was attended by **1,400 participants** representing **132 Member States, 7 UN Bodies and Agencies, 17 intergovernmental organizations** and **76 non-governmental organizations**.

At the margins of the April meeting, **111 side events** were organized, co-sponsored by Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations and civil society - covering all aspects of the world drug problem.

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

SLIDE 3 – Ceremonial Opening Segment

As you may know, 2021 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

To commemorate these anniversaries, the Commission held a ceremonial opening segment on the first day of its sixty-fourth session.

It was a great pleasure and honour for us to celebrate this important occasion with so many high-level speakers, including Ambassador Munir Akram, the President of the Economic and Social Council.

SLIDE 4 – Resolutions

The resolutions adopted at the sixty-fourth session deal with different aspects of the world drug problem, such as:

- Alternative development,
- Scientific evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and sustained recovery,
- Addressing the harmful effects of the non-medical use of pharmaceuticals, and
- Demand reduction for people impacted by social marginalization.

The Commission also adopted a **joint statement** on the impact of COVID-19 on the world drug problem, which was subsequently submitted as a substantive contribution to the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

As you can see on the slide, in all these resolutions you will find a direct link to the sustainable development goals as well as a COVID-19 angle.

SLIDE 5 – Decisions

Through the **eight decisions** adopted at the sixty-fourth session, the Commission added new substances to the schedules of the 1961 and 1971 Convention, as reflected on the screen.

I would also like to share with you that we have now an online course for delegates, entitled “Introduction to Scheduling”, which is meant to facilitate discussions on the scope of control of substances.

SLIDE 6 - Follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

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.

In implementation of this Declaration, Member States further negotiated and 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.

SLIDE 7 – Thematic discussions

The CND will continue facilitating, during its thematic discussions in fall 2021, an interactive exchange of good practices and lessons learned among policy-makers, experts, civil society and academia, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the international drug policy commitments.

The third round of thematic discussions will address three challenges related to:

- Increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime;
- Proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking; and
- Criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.

SLIDE 8 – National Implementation workshops

Also in implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the Secretariat to the Commission continues to hold national workshops with a view to supporting policy-makers and practitioners in translating the international drug policy commitments on the ground.

A number of such workshops were held to date in different parts of the world. Particularly worth mentioning here is the workshop organized in September last year in Kenya – which was conducted in a fully online mode, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions. Despite the long distance and time difference between the facilitators and participants, the first online workshop was a success.

SLIDE 9 - HONLEAs: online extraordinary sessions

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 – and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East gather relevant national experts in each of the five United Nations regions, 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 meetings of the CND subsidiary bodies this year will be held, on 20-24 September 2021, in an online format, similarly to what was done last year.

The extraordinary sessions will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the same challenges of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration that are under close purview during the thematic discussions this year, but from a regional perspective.

It is hoped that the regular sessions of the HONLEAs can resume next year.

SLIDE 10 - *Websites*

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.