

Contribution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the Economic and Social Council Integration Segment addressing the theme “Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?”

This contribution is submitted on behalf of the H.E. Mrs. Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at its 60th session, and has been prepared in response to a letter from the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council inviting the Commission to provide substantive inputs in preparation for the Integration Segment on “**Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?**”, which will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC at UN headquarters in New York from 8 to 10 May 2017.

Introduction

The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS), held in April 2016, for which the CND led the preparatory process, highlighted the mutually reinforcing nature and important linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the work of the CND.

The CND is determined to making the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document (www.ungass2016.org) a truly “joint effort”, also with a view to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, thereby promoting a balanced, rights-based, comprehensive approach to the international drug problem.¹ Living up to the commitments made and making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies requires the international community to jointly address challenges, including those related to the world drug problem.

A dedicated website has been created to showcase the contributions the CND is making to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>.

Work of the Commission

The CND’s work is based on this **principle of common and shared responsibility**, addressing different aspects of the world drug problem in an inclusive and comprehensive manner and encouraging all relevant UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations as well as civil society and academia to actively contribute to its work. In addition, the CND has further been enhancing its cooperation with other functional commissions of the ECOSOC and underlines the important role that can be played by the private sector.

Poverty has strong links with drug abuse. Poverty, unemployment, poor education, domestic violence and social disadvantage are vulnerabilities linked to social development that can be conducive to drug use.² The relationship between economic development and drugs is particularly

¹ See “Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters - Thematic discussions on UNGASS Follow-up (October 2016)” (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.12) and “Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, CND Facilitator for post-UNGASS matters - Thematic discussions on UNGASS Follow-up (January 2017)” (E/CN.7/2017/CRP.1).

² Ibid.

evident in the case of the illicit cultivation of drug crops.³ Women, children and youth, as well as other vulnerable member of society, affected by drug dependence are particularly vulnerable to deprivation, prone to stigmatization and exposed to particular negative risk factors, including poverty.

The Commission's efforts to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3), is closely linked with the endeavour to end poverty in all its forms. In ensuring a **people-centred approach**, the Commission has *inter alia*, at its 60th session reiterated its commitments to “promote, develop, review or strengthen effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services⁴, including measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse. Member States further **reiterated their commitment to ending, by 2030, the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as to combating viral hepatitis and other communicable diseases**⁵.

With a view to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being, Member States devoted a stand-alone section in the UNGASS outcome to the **availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering**, reiterating their strong commitment to improving access by appropriately addressing existing barriers.⁶

Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, is central to the work of the Commission. In General Assembly resolution 70/1, the **importance of building peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions**, was highlighted.⁷ Among the targets associated with **SDG 16**, those related to the rule of law and access to justice and reducing violence, economic crime (corruption and bribery), organized crime and illicit financial flows all have significant links with the world drug problem and with the response to it.

Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5) is another key aspect in to eradicate poverty. Addressing specific needs of women in the context of addressing the world drug problem, is also a key priority in the work of the Commission reflected in a *number of resolutions*,⁸ as well as policy documents, including the *UNGASS outcome document*, which highlights that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals. At the regional level, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission have made specific recommendations for action to mainstream gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes.

The Commission has guided the work of UNODC and the action taken by Member States in areas that are relevant for ending poverty and hunger for many years including **alternative development**.⁹ In *resolution 2016/19*, the ECOSOC, on the basis of the text negotiated by the CND, *inter alia*, stressed that the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development would contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The UNGASS outcome document encourages the

³ UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2016* (Vienna).

⁴ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), Political Declaration; paragraph 21.

⁵ See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution E/CN.7/017/L.12/Rev1.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, Annex, paragraph 2.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁸ See also, for example, CND resolutions 59/6, 55/5 and 52/1.

⁹ See, for example, General Assembly resolution 68/196, Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/19 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/6, 55/4, 55/8, 56/16, 57/1 and 58/4.

promotion of inclusive economic growth and the support of initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development.

Eradicating poverty also involves addressing limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making¹⁰. In its work, the CND also addresses the **social exclusion, stigmatization and discrimination, of people affected by drug dependence, including people living with or affected by HIV**. In the UNGASS outcome, the importance of preventing social marginalization and promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as of encouraging drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity, was highlighted (SDG 10).

Each of the functional Commissions of the ECOSOC has specific mandates and expertise, but together the Commissions, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, are stronger and better equipped to address the cross-cutting challenges and support the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and to making the eradication of poverty an integral objective in **all** policies.

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>.