

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 62<sup>nd</sup> session**  
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Intervention

**Thematic Debate 2: the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, have reached record levels, and that the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise;**

Mr President: today's, tomorrow's and future interventions will be significantly shorter than yesterday's, given that I had already elaborated on our approach of focusing on specific recommendations of the issue under debate, and for collectively trying to assess the level of implementation of those recommendations.

Regarding drug abuse, evidently is developed the most in Operational Recommendation 1 of UNGASS 2016, where we reiterated our commitment to facilitating initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, through the measures described in that Recommendation, particularly specific recommendations, such as:

- (a) providing people, in particular, children and youth, with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse;
- (b) providing appropriately targeted early interventions for people at risk;
- (c) increasing the availability, coverage and quality of prevention measures and tools targeting relevant age and risk groups;
- (e) involving policymakers, parliamentarians, educators, civil society, the scientific community, academia, target populations, individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and their peer groups, families and other co-dependent people, as well as the private sector, in the development of prevention programmes;
- (h) improving the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence of data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors, and promoting the use of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention;

- (i) recognizing drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder with social causes and consequences;
- (j) encouraging the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, preventing social marginalization and promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes;
- (l) developing and strengthening the cooperation of health, social and law enforcement and other criminal justice authorities;
- (m) promoting the inclusion in national drug policies of the prevention and treatment of drug overdose;
- (n) promoting cooperation technical assistance to States, including by reinforcing national programmes aimed at prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;
- (o) including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse;
- (p) implementing the standards on the treatment of drug use disorders developed by UNODC and WHO and other relevant international standards;
- (q) intensifying the participation of civil society organizations and entities involved in drug-related health and social treatment services;
- (r) encouraging UNODC, WHO, INCB and other UN entities to strengthening health and social welfare measures for addressing the world drug problem, including through effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in cooperation with civil society and the scientific community.

I will not, Mr President, recite at lengths all the commitments devoted to address the illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances nor those about the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, neither those related to the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals.

And I will not enlist them, Mr. President, as they are a lot. But more importantly, because unfortunately they have proven to be insufficient and ineffective. I am aware that these might sound as strong or even inappropriate words. But, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration where the title for this second debate comes, the truth is that and I quote **“the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, HAVE REACHED RECORD LEVELS, and that the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals ARE ON THE RISE”**.

That situation, Mr President, is not withstanding the strong commitment and energetic efforts made by all of us, even in some cases with a very high cost in terms of human lives, as shared by panelists and other delegations. Hence, by the Mid-term review in 2024 we should be looking into which concrete actions could develop from all the array of political commitments on these areas or if new approaches have to be explored, in order to become more effective and efficient in our efforts.

Before closing, Mr President, I would like to highlight though, a couple of political commitments which in our understanding have already been fully implemented:

Firstly, there is the compilation of national lists of companies authorized to manufacture, distribute and/or trade in precursors, with a view to enhancing means of verification, as prescribed in **Action 41 subpara (l) of the Plan of Action of 2009**. Therefore, in the Mid-term review which should already flag-out this commitment from our list of pending tasks. About this issue, I would ask the UNODC and INCB to share their views whether we should do something additional to increase the utility of this list and that, Mr President, could be the basis for developing a future commitment on this issue.

Secondly, is the development of systems (for example, shared online recording systems) to prevent precursor chemicals from being diverted into illicit channels from community pharmacies, as envisioned in **subpara (r) of the same Action 41**. We should also flag-out this commitment from our pending's list; here, the question should be as well, what should we do next?

But on Action 41, there some commitments which were clearly not fully complied with in the more than reasonable timeframe of 10 years, particularly that of subpara (e) about the formulation of a universal code of conduct for the industry and appropriate national and international legislation on the supply of and trafficking in precursors, including those not yet under international control and for the INCB to provide guidelines on how to establish cooperation between competent national authorities and operators. About this last issue, Mr President, we would appreciate the confirmation from either UNODC or INCB on whether those guidelines were produce or not; if it was not the case, then we would like to know the causes for not producing those guidelines, and more importantly, if it would be the case to produce them at some point.

Thank you, Mr. President.