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Addendum

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem

1. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April 2021, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem”.
2. For its consideration of item 7, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS ([E/CN.7/2021/6](#)), as well as a note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.3](#)).
3. Introductory remarks were delivered by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC (online).
4. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States (online), the Netherlands (online), Mexico (online), the Russian Federation (online), Algeria (online) and Morocco (online).
5. Statements were made by the observers for the European Union (online) (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine), the United Arab Emirates (online), Indonesia (online) and Paraguay (online).
6. A statement was also made by the observer for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (online).
7. Statements were also made by the observers for the Uganda Green Crescent Society (online), Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (online) and the Transnational Institute (pre-recorded video).
8. During the 9th meeting, reference was made to a statement by Kenya, which was not delivered for technical reasons and would be published on the UNODC website.



Deliberations

9. Several speakers stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated challenges regarding the world drug problem and, at the same time, demonstrated the importance of multilateralism, the coordination of efforts and inter-agency cooperation. The principal role of the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations in drug-related matters and the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for drug-related matters were recalled by a number of speakers. Several speakers also recalled the commitment of Member States to implementing all international drug policy commitments in a single track, in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, and some speakers reiterated that the three international drug control conventions constituted, along with other international instruments, the cornerstone of international drug policy.

10. Many speakers underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation at the local, national, regional and international levels to effectively address all aspects of the world drug problem. A number of speakers reported on national and regional initiatives, such as joint cross-border operations and coordination efforts among domestic authorities, including those in charge of health, education, justice and law enforcement, and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations. A number of speakers referred to specific national efforts implemented in order to ensure demand and supply reduction in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

11. Several speakers expressed appreciation for and welcomed ongoing inter-agency cooperation and coordination efforts, underscoring that effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem required the leveraging of knowledge and experience across the United Nations system. The importance of ensuring synergies and complementarity, with a view to accelerating the implementation of joint commitments and ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem was left behind, was underlined by a number of speakers.

12. Several speakers noted the importance of the contributions of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Commission, and the need to strengthen international and inter-agency cooperation and enhance coherence within the United Nations system. In that regard, some speakers encouraged UNODC to provide briefings through the Commission on coordination efforts within the United Nations system. Reference was made to previous resolutions of the Commission and the General Assembly in which UNODC had been called upon to ensure inter-agency cooperation and to report thereon.

13. Several speakers welcomed the cooperation of UNODC with, inter alia, WHO and INCB, including in the implementation of the international drug control conventions and in supporting Member States in ensuring the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, taking into account their respective treaty-based mandates. It was noted with appreciation that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC had increased its cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and stakeholders. Specific reference was made to the cooperation on the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs and the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme.

14. Several speakers reaffirmed the Commission's leading and principal role in addressing and countering the world drug problem. Several speakers highlighted the importance of coherence within the United Nations system at all levels with regard to the world drug problem and welcomed the United Nations system common position on drug-related matters and the work of the related United Nations system coordination task team. One speaker underscored that inter-agency cooperation should support the development and implementation of international drug policy and the work of the Commission, not transfer the policymaking function of the Commission to task teams or other mechanisms established to enhance United Nations system-wide collaboration. Another speaker underscored that the common

position was an internal United Nations system document that had not been mandated by the Commission, had not been developed in consultation with Member States and that did not reflect the political commitments agreed by consensus in the Commission.
