

**Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the
Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies**

1 February 2021

16:00 – 18:00, Room C0751

H.E. Ambassador Dominika Krois (Poland)

Chair of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon from Vienna. It is my great pleasure to address you today in my capacity as Chair of the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I am here with Ambassador Cortese of Italy, Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and colleagues from the UNODC Secretariat.

I would first like to address how our Commission contributes to the HLPF review of the theme for 2021 as well as to the work of ECOSOC, and what initial key messages can be offered.

The 2021 theme of the ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum is very much at the core of the work of our Commission. The world drug problem is expected to become more acute due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Illicit drug markets have been quick in adapting to the new situation of the pandemic, thereby exposing drug users to new dangers. Lack of access to drug prevention and treatment makes it more likely that already marginalised populations will engage in more harmful patterns of drug use.

The Commission took this year a number of resolutions and organized meetings relevant for the upcoming HLPF:

- Resolution 63/5 on “promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy” contributes to SDG 1 (“no poverty”), SDG 2 (“zero hunger”) and SDG 8 (“decent work and economic growth”), as

alternative development programmes enable farmers to switch from the cultivation of illicit crops, such as opium poppies or coca, to more sustainable, legal alternatives.

- With regard to SDG 3 (on "good health and well-being"), the Commission adopted resolution 63/3, entitled "Promoting awareness-raising, education and training as part of a comprehensive approach to ensuring access to and the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and improving their rational use". Further, in October, the Commission held again thematic discussions on some of the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration 2019, namely: Drug treatment and health services, transmission of HIV, the hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use; adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances; and the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and palliative care.
- Let me mention in relation to SDG 17 ("partnerships") that the Commission quickly adapted to new ways of working during the pandemic. More than nine months into the pandemic, the Vienna-based Commissions have gained considerable experience with online and hybrid meetings, and we stand ready to share these experiences with those interested.

I will now turn to other areas for time reasons, but there are many other examples we could provide.

In line with past practice, our Commission will also this year submit, upon the invitation of the ECOSOC President, a **written contribution to the High-level Political Forum**, outlining the Commission's work and efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission will also consider the possibility of a **joint statement or declaration** on the impact of pandemic on the world drug problem, and I will be happy to keep you updated on any progress in this regard. Our Commission has a **standing**

agenda item during the regular session to discuss contributions to the ECOSOC, and follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We stand ready to discuss further how the contributions of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to the HLPF thematic review and the work of ECOSOC can be best utilized, and how the Integration Segment can best guide the work of the subsidiary bodies.

On the implementation of GA Resolution 72/305 and enhancing cooperation among the subsidiary bodies, let me highlight that we very much value the **cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies**, particularly our brother and sister functional commissions.

- In June 2020, the CND held a joint event with the CCPCJ for commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women, and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and girls. At that occasion, we had the pleasure to welcome the Chair of the **Commission on the Status of Women** and the President of the **Human Rights Council** who provided intergovernmental perspectives from their respective mandates.
- The Commission also teamed up with the **UN Statistical Commission** on a number of occasions to support enhanced drug-related data collection.

I am pleased to report that our Commission performs in line with the requests made in GA resolution 72/305. As the main policy-making body for drug-policy matters, the CND produces policy recommendations, and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda – with **key annual action-oriented negotiated outcomes**, including such outcomes which provide mandates to the UN Secretariat.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues –

In the CND we are looking forward to working with all of you. I would invite you all to our regular session from 12 to 16 April 2021, as well as the annual thematic discussions which will be held again in autumn 2021 and focus on issues of specific relevance to SDG 16: the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime; proceeds of crime; and the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies. We stand ready to share our experience with a view to improving our response to resolution 72/305, and best supporting the review of the Council and the HLPF.

We count on ECOSOC, as our parent body, and on its Secretariat to support enhanced horizontal cooperation among its subsidiary bodies,

- to enhance the **visibility and relevance of the work of all subsidiary bodies;**
- **to create opportunities for the Chairs to meet and participate in joint panels or events,**
- to take into account that **maintaining an effective framework for intergovernmental meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic** is very labour-intensive, and to help **ensuring the availability of the required resources** in an adequate and predictable manner.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

We are looking forward to continuing to work together with the ECOSOC family, and we hope to see some of you soon in Vienna.

Thank you very much.