



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 February 2016

Excellency,

I wish to refer to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016, in accordance with resolutions 67/193 of 20 December 2012, 69/200 of 18 December 2014 and 70/181 of 17 December 2015.

Pursuant to resolution 70/181, the special session will consist of a general debate and five interactive multi-stakeholder roundtables conducted in parallel with the plenary meetings (see annex for a list of the themes for the roundtables). I should like to draw your attention to paragraph 3(f) of the aforementioned resolution in which the Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, shall address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements for the roundtables. In line with that mandate, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by its decision 58/16 of 11 December 2015, elaborated on logistical provisions for the roundtables, including with respect to the composition of the Co-Chairs and the panellists.

In paragraph 4(d) of its decision, the Commission decided “that the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables shall be co-chaired by two representatives of two different regional groups — one of the co-Chairs should be a member of the Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session and the other co-Chair shall be from a different regional group, to be nominated by the respective regional group at United Nations Headquarters and appointed by the President of the General Assembly.”

Furthermore, in paragraph 4(e) of the same decision, the Commission decided that “each round table shall consist of a panel composed of five panellists to be nominated by the regional groups and one panellist nominated by the civil society task force for the special session; the panel could further include up to two speakers from the entities of the United Nations system. The final list of the panellists and other speakers will be drawn up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly;” I am therefore seeking the nomination by your group of one Co-Chair for a roundtable. I would be grateful if the name of the one Co-Chair along with the first and second choice of preferred roundtable are provided by 10 March 2016.

I am also seeking the nominations by your group of one panellist for each of the five roundtables. I would be grateful if the names of these 5 panellists are provided by 10 March 2016.

I would appreciate to receive the nominations by the deadline set, in order to be able to inform the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, whose 59<sup>th</sup> session will be opened on 14 March 2016.

I would also strongly encourage you to coordinate with the Chairs of your Regional Groups in Vienna in preparing the nominations, bearing in mind the mandate given to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by the General Assembly.

I would like to thank you for your cooperation in these important preparations for the special session. Your support in providing timely nominations for the Co-Chairs and the panellists for the roundtables will be highly appreciated.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', is positioned above the printed name.

Mogens Lykketoft

To the Chairs of the regional groups for  
the month of February  
New York

cc

H.E. Mr. Vladimír Galuška  
Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 59th session

All Permanent Representatives  
And Permanent Observers  
To the United Nations  
New York

## Annex: List of roundtables and themes in accordance with resolution 70/181

Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion (“drugs and health”):

- (i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
- (ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation (“drugs and crime”):

- (i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
- (ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

- (i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>1</sup> and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;
- (ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

- (i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;
- (ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy;