



A.288/15

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa, Chair of the African Group, presents its compliments to Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations in Vienna, in his capacity as the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to lead all the organizational and substantive preparations for the United Nations Special Session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (UNGASS Board), and has the honor to submit the contribution of the African Group to the UNGASS outcome document.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa, Chair of the African Group, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chair of the UNGASS Board the assurances of its highest consideration.



VIENNA
11 September 2015

The Chair of the UNGASS Board
VIENNA

THE AFRICAN GROUP

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE UNGASS OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Preamble

Recalling *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

Reaffirming the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly on international cooperation towards a balanced and integrated Strategy to counter the world drug problem and calling upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining, in a timely manner, their goals and targets;

Recognizing that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem constitutes an opportunity for high-level and wide-ranging discussion among Member States leading up to the target date of 2019, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*;

Underscore that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system which still remain relevant;

Recognizing the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the central policy making body with the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters and the efforts undertaken by the bureau of the 57th Session of the Commission in addressing all the organizational and substantive matters for the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem;

Welcoming the decision 57/2 adopted by the Commission entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016" which underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, the

target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for achieving targets and goals set out therein;

Taking note of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action were identified within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

Mindful of the trends in illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances around the world, which continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, undermining socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development;

Recognizing the fundamental importance of effective and increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility to address the world drug problem.

Operative Paragraphs

1. Emphasizing the importance that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem has in enhancing the capacities of States, sub-regional, regional and international organizations in fulfilling the commitments, targets and goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.
2. Continue to implement the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action and reaffirm our commitments to achieve the targets, including eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably by 2019 the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant;
3. Continue to strengthen the implementation of the three international drug control conventions and the goals and objectives set forth in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to effectively address new challenges and threats posed by the world drug problem.
4. The main objective of drug policies should be to improve the health, safety, welfare and socio-economic well-being of people and society by adopting appropriate measures to combat illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as its associated crimes.
5. Effective drug policies are those that achieve a balanced and integrated approach in between supply reduction, demand reduction and international cooperation as outlined in the three international drug control conventions as well as the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.
6. Continue to pursue a mutually reinforcing approach to supply and demand reduction, addressing drug abuse as a health and social issue, while upholding the law and its enforcement.