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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Follow-up to the special session of the General

Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,

including the seven thematic areas of the outcome
document of the special session

Bolivia, Canada and Uruguay: draft resolution

**Promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability,
access and delivery of health, care and social services for drug
users**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Mindful of our commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirming our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recalling the UNGASS outcome document, that reaffirmed our determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recalling our commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling resolution 57/4 that stated that efforts supporting recovery from substance use disorders need to be consistent with human rights obligations and be within the framework of the international drug control conventions,

Recalling also the UNGASS outcome document, that recognized drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes, and strengthened capacity for after care for and the rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders, including, as appropriate,

* E/CN.7/2018/1.



through assistance for effective reintegration into the labour market and other support services,

Recognizing, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem, that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity,

Recognizing that marginalization, stigmatizing attitudes, discrimination and fear of social, employment-related or legal repercussions may dissuade many who need help from accessing it and lead those who are in stable long-term recovery from a substance use disorder to avoid disclosure of their status as a person in recovery from addiction,

Guided by the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem",¹ to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, where consistent with national legislation, and develop and implement outreach programmes and campaigns, involving drug users in long-term recovery, where appropriate, to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity;

Guided also by the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and the reaffirmation therein of the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to support Member States in the implementation of international drug control treaties in accordance with applicable human rights obligations and to promote protection of and respect for human rights and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programs, strategies and policies,

Noting the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly to promote and strengthen regional and international cooperation in developing and implementing treatment-related initiatives, enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building and ensure non-discriminatory access to a broad range of interventions, including psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as to rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery-support programmes, including access to such services in prisons and after imprisonment, giving special attention to the specific needs of women, children and youth in this regard,

Recalling the operational recommendation contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly to ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community, and ensure that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy,

Recalling further, the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, calling Member States to, *inter alia*, provide appropriate training within criminal justice and/or prison systems to support measures that are based on scientific evidence and are ethical, so that staff attitudes are respectful, non-judgmental and non-stigmatizing;

Reiterating, our commitment to promote, develop, review or strengthen effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related

¹ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

support services, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug use for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the particular challenges faced by drug users;

Acknowledging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² which pledged that no one would be left behind in the pursuit of the goals set out in that Agenda,

Also acknowledging that removing stigmatizing attitudes in line with the purposes of this resolution may require comprehensive and balanced efforts by Member States, in accordance with national legislation, national and regional contexts, while respecting cultural diversity, as appropriate, and in a way that does not undermine judicial procedures and any legitimate and necessary measures for crime prevention and protecting public interest.

Recalling its resolution 59/5 and underlining the importance of taking into account the challenges and needs faced by women and girls who use drugs or are affected by the drug use of others and of mainstreaming a gender perspective in national drug policies,

1. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, within their national and regional contexts, to promote among their relevant agencies and social service sectors, non-stigmatizing attitudes in the development and implementation of scientific evidence-based policies related to the availability, access and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users, and to reduce possible discrimination, exclusion or prejudice those people may encounter.

2. *Requests* Member States, as appropriate, within their national and regional contexts, to continue to enhance the inclusiveness in making relevant programmes and strategies, to seek opinions and contributions from drug users and contributions of organizations, family and community members who are working with them and support them, to facilitate the development of scientific evidence-based policies regarding the availability, access and delivery of health, care and social services;

3. *Also urges* Member States, in accordance with their national and regional context, as appropriate, and cultural traditions, to include in their existing training programmes the effect of stigmatizing attitudes on availability, access and delivery of services to drug users

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to integrate awareness of stigmatizing attitudes into existing training programmes for agencies, with tasks in the areas of health, care and social services, and other relevant officials, and, where appropriate, in cooperation with other relevant regional, interregional and international organizations.

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue coordinating efforts with other relevant United Nations organizations, bodies and agencies, to support an increase in awareness of the negative effects of stigmatizing attitudes in the availability, access and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users while bearing in mind respect for the human rights and dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies

6. *Requests* the UNODC to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session on how UNODC has implemented the aspects of the present resolution relevant to its work

7. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extra-budgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations,

8. *Reaffirms* that the provisions in this resolution will be undertaken in accordance with States international legal obligations.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1