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Subject: EU Statement on the occasion of the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 10-14 March 2025)
- Agenda item 7: Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem

Delegations will find in the Annex the above-mentioned statement as expressed on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) (Vienna, 10-14 March 2025).



European Union

**Statement on agenda item 7: Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in
addressing and countering the world drug problem**

68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Vienna, 10-14 March 2025

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The global drug situation is so complex that it requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and future-oriented approach by all actors and at all levels. We cannot work in silos if we want to be effective and we therefore need to further **enhance inter-agency cooperation** and coordination.

This is a commitment that was undertaken during the 2024 mid-term review and set out in the high-level declaration by the CND. We all agreed to encourage further contributions of relevant UN entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the CND and to addressing the world drug situation as well as to strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation. This should contribute to facilitating the work of the CND and enhancing coherence within the UN system at all levels with regard to the world drug situation.

We need to tackle **all aspects of the world drug situation**, including its health and human rights dimensions. We therefore **welcome** the participation of representatives of **UN entities** such as WHO, UNAIDS, UN Women, OHCHR, UNDP in the work of the CND and appreciate their involvement in drug policy in general. We count on increased coordination between the relevant **UN bodies in New York, Geneva and Vienna**, given the linkages between the topics of drugs, crime, health, gender, development and human rights.

We welcome the positive steps in this direction, such as the UNODC-WHO cooperation, for example in the implementation of the joint programme on drug dependence treatment and care. We also welcome the attention by the **Human Rights Council** to effectively addressing and countering the world drug situation with regard to human rights. In this context, we take note of the **reports** of **OHCHR** on Human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem and of the **Special Rapporteur** on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health focusing on drug use, harm reduction and the right to health.

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination is vital in a number of specific areas. For example, on the topic of **access to and availability** of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, in the last year's CND **resolution 67/2**, the UNODC, INCB, WHO and other relevant UN entities were invited to develop guidance for the rational use of controlled substances, with attention to the specific needs of children, and to continue to provide multidisciplinary support to Member States.

On the topic of improving **data collection** on, and responses to, the harmful effects of the non-medical use of pharmaceuticals, in particular synthetic opioids, in accordance with CND **resolution 64/4**, UNODC, INCB, WHO and other relevant UN entities and regional and intergovernmental organisations were invited to streamline the collection of data, share best practices to enhance global data collection, and provide analysis and reporting on trends and responses to the harmful effects of these substances, thereby strengthening inter-agency cooperation and avoiding duplication of work.

On the topic of preventing and responding to drug overdose through prevention, treatment, care and recovery measures, as well as other public health interventions, to address the harms associated with illicit drug use as part of a balanced, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based approach, in accordance with **CND resolution 67/4**, UNODC, WHO and other relevant UN entities and regional and international organisations were also invited to cooperate and expand existing efforts related to overdose prevention and response[, including by collecting and facilitating the exchange of best practices, scientific evidence-based prevention, demand reduction, treatment, recovery support and other public health interventions. These organisations and Member States were also invited to develop or strengthen systems for the collection, analysis and sharing of information related to drug overdoses, including early warning networks, and the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders to identify trends and emerging threats, and inform public health responses].

Mr Chair,

We continue to support the **UN Common Position** on drug policy and the steps in implementing it. We would welcome more regular briefings on this topic to keep Member States informed, and encourage UNODC to remain actively engaged as the leading entity of the UN Task Team. We invite UNODC to include a mention of the Position in the new version of UNODC's corporate Strategy.

[The EU and its Member States continue to engage in the Global Coalition to address synthetic drug threats, including its working group on public health and the sub-working group on information sharing, inter-agency collaboration and policy formulation.]

The EU and its Member States also underline the importance of working with **civil society** and the scientific community, as well as the private sector, where relevant, in addressing the world drug situation and in shaping drug policies, given their valuable role, practical experience, expertise and networks.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, let me underline that the EU will continue to support enhancing synergies, **coherence** and complementarity within the United Nations system at all levels with regard to the world drug situation. The inter-agency cooperation is key to accelerating the implementation of our joint commitments to address the world drug situation.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
