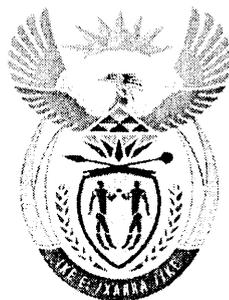


*Board Tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
with preparations for UNGASS 2016*

**1. AFRICA GROUP (Note Verbale by Permanent Mission South Africa)**

- The Africa Group Contribution for the UNGASS Outcome Document



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 57<sup>th</sup> 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.

7. Governments are strongly encouraged to keep illicit drug trafficking and related organized criminal activities at the forefront of their political agendas given the threat to public health, harm to the environment caused by illicit cultivation, adverse economic effects and the negative impact on the rule of law.
8. Governments are encouraged to consider allocating resources towards mainstreaming drug control into national policies and development plans.
9. Underscoring the importance of enhancing development assistance, without conditionalities, in particular Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA), to complement the efforts of developing countries especially those in Africa in uprooting extreme poverty, unemployment and inequality and improve the quality of life through education, skills and technology transfer particularly in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
10. Ensure adequate availability of controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse.
11. Develop, improve and implement drugs abuse awareness raising, treatment and rehabilitation including combined public education, advocacy, law enforcement and health initiatives.
12. Bilateral and multilateral development assistance should be allocated to assist Governments to ensure that adequate resources are made available to provide for and facilitate the development and operation of treatment and rehabilitation facilities, programs and standards for persons suffering from substance-use disorders including community-based programs and services.
13. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with Member States, is urged to undertake a study of the illicit use of plant-based stimulants and hallucinogenics, such as khat and datura, taking into consideration the extent of their abuse in their communities and the effect on public health.
14. Support the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor non-violent nature, in accordance with the international drug control conventions which establishes, to varying degrees and in specific situations, that States may provide, either as an alternative to conviction or punishment or in addition to conviction or punishment, measures of treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation or social reintegration.
15. Governments are encouraged to enhance close collaboration between their law enforcement authorities and their national HIV/AIDS authorities so as to ensure that the challenge of HIV/AIDS among injecting people who use drugs is properly addressed in accordance with national law.
16. There is an urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in humans, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, trafficking in wildlife products and, in some cases, terrorism and money-laundering, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations to avoid detection and prosecution.

17. Governments are encouraged to strengthen international cooperation to counter drug-related crimes including countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through strengthening the capacities of law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial authorities.
18. Governments should encourage their law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judiciaries to work closely with their counterparts in other countries so as to share information, best practices and improve communication channels so as to combat trafficking in drugs.
19. Note with concern the proliferation of drug trafficking routes, particularly the Atlantic and Southern routes, which seem to be gaining in prominence and calls for more studies and data analysis in order to monitor this worrying trend which has created many security challenges, including organized crime along the trafficking routes that may undermine the efforts to achieve the Post-2015 development agenda.
20. Provide more extensive assistance to fight against organized criminal networks involved in transcontinental cocaine and heroin trafficking and involve concerned Member States in the fight against illicit drug trafficking networks through appropriate platforms and more efficient maritime cooperation.
21. Misguided policies such as the legalization and decriminalization of certain drugs will hinder the ongoing efforts to combat the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs and also the balanced approach which Member States have committed to in the global fight against the world drug problem.
22. Governments are encouraged to enhance national, regional and international collaboration and cooperation to manage and control the import and production of precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations used in the manufacture of drugs as well as prevent their diversion by strengthening the legal and administrative procedures regulating their commercial use, sale and distribution, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions.
23. Governments are encouraged to review their national drug policies, laws and strategies so as to ensure that the drug response strategies, covering both supply and demand reduction, taking into account the provisions of the three international drug control conventions including by ensuring that the law enforcement authorities have the requisite capacity to sufficiently address the trafficking of drugs and meet the new challenges arising from the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.
24. Governments are encouraged to register, support and participate in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) online system, the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) and the International Operations on New Psychoactive Substances (ION) offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to share information on legitimate trade in precursor chemicals, share information in precursor seizures, thefts, shipments stopped in source, transit and destination countries, diversions and diversion attempts including illicit laboratories and support national authorities in their efforts to prevent non-scheduled new psychoactive substances (NPS) of abuse from reaching consumer markets.
25. There is a need for the adoption of appropriate measures such as laws and regulations to address the abuse of substances not under international control such as Tramadol and Ketamine aimed at preventing the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and distribution including reducing their illicit supply and demand by strengthening cooperation in law

enforcement officials to tackle the trade in, distribution, and manufacture of these substances, as well as strengthening of international cooperation in data collection, data sharing, and data dissemination, in order to develop a comprehensive and proactive international strategy and policy for drug control.

26. Governments are encouraged to form partnerships with their chemical and pharmaceutical industries with a view to educating them and raising awareness on the adverse effects of irresponsible transactions that do not comply with the relevant drug control laws and regulations and to properly regulate the import, export and distribution of precursor chemicals and prescription drugs.
27. Adequate assistance should be provided to Governments in order to promote, develop or review their sustainable alternative development initiatives and other crops as alternatives to narcotic plants as an effective means of addressing the dependence of rural communities to the cultivation of narcotic plants including the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis for their livelihoods.
28. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is encouraged to continue to use its advocacy role to encourage multilateral development agencies as well as bilateral donors to provide special attention to alternative development including in Africa in the programs and projects related to counter the world drug problem.
29. There is a need for enhanced and effective regional and international cooperation including South-South cooperation in the provision of technical assistance, based on the identified needs and priorities of the requesting countries, and the sharing of best practices among Member States on effective drug control strategies to fight against the illicit manufacturing, production and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances as well as establish drug dependency treatment and rehabilitation facilities particularly in developing countries.
30. The increasing importance of effective and enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance and extradition to tackle the problems faced by the countries affected by illicit drug trafficking and abuse of drugs including the need to build capacity for effective border control and enhance inter-agency cooperation and coordination between Member States and making better use of the provisions on international cooperation in the three international drug control conventions.
31. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other UN entities and bodies are encouraged to continue to mobilize resources for the delivery technical assistance including equipment, upon request, to Member States so as to enhance the capacities in the field of crime and drug prevention, law enforcement, forensic laboratories, training of personnel, and reorganization of institutions.
32. Governments are encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation of drug trafficking and drug use so as to develop and implement strategies that are effective to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities.
33. Adequate assistance should be provided to Governments to improve the collection and analysis of reliable and comparable data and statistics in order to enable the countries tackle the drug problem and to join their effort to promote international cooperation.

34. Governments are encouraged to improve research and data collection capacities at national and regional levels for the development and revision of drug control strategies and further enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation including provision of adequate and effective technical and financial assistance, based on the identified needs of requesting countries so as to build capacity in undertaking drug research and data collection.
35. Governments are encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that drugs pose in order to support the development of national strategies that act effectively to combat their negative impact.