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CHAIRPERSON OF THE
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
AT ITS FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

ADDRESS TO THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE
ECOSOC, 6-31 JULY 2009

Agenda item 14 (d)

Mr. President,

Adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action

I have the honour and pleasure to be at this session of the Council today and to speak to you as Chairperson of the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The 52nd session was significant, for it held its High-level segment to consider and adopt the Political Declaration and a Plan of Action containing measures to enhance international cooperation in countering the world drug problem beyond 2009, pursuant to the mandates contained in the Political Declaration and Action Plans adopted by the Twentieth Special Session on the world drug problem by the General Assembly in 1998.

Cognisant of the growing problem caused by illicit narcotic drugs and its impact at the national, regional and global levels, Member States attending the High-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs evaluated and reviewed the results of international drug control in the past decade, and identified future priorities and areas requiring further action. They approved the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which, for ease of reference are contained in document A/64/92-E/2009/98, and are being transmitted through the Council to the General Assembly. I wish at this juncture, on behalf of the Commission, to place on record my appreciation of the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). At the same time, the Commission recognise the role played by NGOs.

Let me recall that, the General Assembly in its resolution 63/197, decided to consider the results of the High-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at a plenary

meeting at its sixty-fourth session. This dedicated Plenary session of the General Assembly will undoubtedly provide an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm once again their commitment expressed through the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. All Member States are, therefore, called upon to participate actively at this plenary meeting.

I am convinced, as many of you are, that we all share the same concerns in recognition of the continuous and growing challenge posed by this problem. The world drug problem is no longer a regional problem, but a global developmental and security challenge. Today, our youth is wasting away as a result of drug abuse. Sustainable development in many countries is being impeded. Increasingly, women and girls are being used as couriers to traffic narcotic drugs, and thus subjected to violence and trafficking. . Therefore, we must enhance international cooperation for drug control. Concretely, this should amount to a collective commitment to ensure that the Political Declarations and Action Plans adopted in 1998 and 2009 are fully implemented in order to enhance international cooperation to effectively counter the world drug problem.

Let me now draw your attention to one of the resolutions adopted by the Commission, namely resolution 52/12 entitled “Improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to monitor the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”. The adoption of this resolution is of particular importance, as it concerns the development of the main instrument to measure progress by the international community with regard to international cooperation in countering the world drug problem and will contribute to the evaluation of the results of action by the international

community, including in areas requiring further engagements by Governments.

Mr. President,

Improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC

I would like to acknowledge the technical cooperation activities conducted by UNODC, and call on all Member States to continue providing political and material support to the Office. The comprehensive measures we have put in place for international drug control and the prevention of organized crime can only be realized when the UNODC is fully equipped to meet the demands placed upon it by Member States.

To this end, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its 52nd session, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its 18th session, adopted respectively resolutions 52/13 and 18/3 on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In those resolutions, the Commissions recommended the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The two Commissions also recommended that, the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice be held back to back in the second half of each year, in order to consider the reports of and recommendations

proposed by the working group. Subsequently, it became necessary to table a decision, for adoption by ECOSOC, in order to operationalize resolutions 52/13 and 18/3 on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Hence, you have before you the draft decision contained in document E/2009/L.38, for adoption.

As stated in the Political Declaration adopted at the High-Level Segment of the CND, the time is now for us to tackle the World Drug Problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity.

I thank you.
