



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA



Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Kazem Gharib Abadi

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

To the United Nations Office and other International Organizations

**On preparations for the ministerial segment
to be held during the sixty-second session of the CND**

9 November 2018

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Please, check against delivery

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to share its views on the imperative issue of preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the CND. First of all, let me start by thanking you for providing the “Draft outline for the way beyond 2019, Oriented to the future, learning from the past”. We examined this document carefully and thoroughly and let me confess that it was not an easy job. We are looking forward to receive a shorter revised version based on our discussion in this intersessional meeting, as a basis for coming informal consultations.

On the outline for the way beyond 2019, we already shared our views in different occasions and let me reiterate them once again. From our point of view, the outline could be a concise and forward looking short document, capturing, including the following elements:

1. Brief report of results of the stocktaking exercise on the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date;

2. Underscore the commitments contained in the three drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system (1961, 1971, 1988 conventions) and their significance;
3. Reaffirmation the commitments contained in the three key political documents (2009 Political Declaration, 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and 2016 UNGASS outcome document), including targets set out in OP 36 of the 2009 Political Declaration, as guidance to the post-2019 efforts to counter the world drug problem;
4. Recognition that three key political documents are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
5. Focus on implementation of the existing commitments and the need to accelerate their implementation;
6. Reaffirmation of the CND leading policy making role;
7. Confirmation of the Treaty-mandated roles of INCB and WHO;
8. Establishment of a Single track follow up system for implementation of the commitments as well as reporting of progress beyond 2019;
9. Confirmation of importance of high quality data to monitor implementation of commitments and need for strengthening and streamlining data collection;
10. Set a new clear review timeline for beyond 2019;

11. Recognition the importance of providing the means of implementation of the commitments, including technical assistance and financial resources.
12. Stressing on promotion and strengthening of International cooperation; and
13. Provide a holistic assessment of the progress made, lessons learnt and best practices developed.

Madam Chair,

During past four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sustained very huge human and financial costs in its fight against illicit drugs, namely martyrdom of 4000 and wounding of 12000 officers of law enforcement police, dying of 4000 people annually due to the miss-use of drugs, and social harms for the families. Iran is at the forefront of fight against drug trafficking and has mobilized all means to prevent transit of illicit drugs to other countries. According to the reports, Iran, in addition to the seizure of other drugs, is responsible for 75 percent of the world opium seizures, so my country was recognized as the standard bearer of the fights against drugs. One of our priorities in this process, is to fight against armed drug trafficking bands. Iran, simultaneously, works on prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment. A wide range of measures are taken for the long-term treatment as well as physical and mental rehabilitation and re-integration of addicts into the society.

Unfortunately, Iran didn't benefit from international cooperation. Fight against drugs is a common responsibility and a global problem. Weakening international conventions to meet domestic needs by violations the obligations, shouldn't be an option and we strongly oppose it. We should discuss problems collectively in the CND, rather taking unilateral actions.

Madam Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating our firm commitment to this collective endeavor in a spirit of cooperation and constructiveness aiming at reaching a consensus based agreement on the way forward.

I thank you Madam Chair.