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SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

ACHIEVING THE 2019 GOALS — A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THE WORLD'S YOUTH

UNGASS 2016



UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly will hold a Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016. This Special Session will be an important milestone in achieving the goals set in the 2009 “Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”, which defined action to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019.

In March 2014, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) conducted the high-level, mid-term review of the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the results of which are included in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted by the Commission. Member States identified achievements, challenges and priorities for further action on the way to the target date of 2019.

The General Assembly has requested CND, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for UNGASS. In response to this request, the Commission adopted resolution 57/5, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, in which it decided to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the 2016 Special Session.

Also in that resolution, CND decided to present proposals for consideration by the General Assembly regarding all organizational matters, including the agenda, dates, substantive issues to be covered, outcomes and other issues relevant to the successful preparations for the Special Session. Furthermore, the Chair of the Commission has been requested to consider undertaking consultations with relevant stakeholders.

This process was started immediately. As an initial step to facilitate broader consultation with United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations, the website www.ungass2016.org has been created. It is intended to enable global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner and to function as a resource tool for the Commission in its preparations for the 2016 Special Session. All relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, and NGOs have been invited to contribute. The website also contains a timeline that lays out important dates and events for CND on the way to 2016.

At its reconvened 57th session in December 2014 and its 58th session in March 2015, the Commission will devote a significant part of its meetings to preparations for the General Assembly Special Session on drugs in 2016.