

## Comments by the Civil Society Forum on Drugs on draft resolution L3 on modalities for the 2019 Ministerial Segment

Ahead of the HDG meeting planned for early March, the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD) wishes to provide the following recommendations on the draft resolution L3 submitted by the CND Chair on the modalities for the 2019 Ministerial Segment on drug control.

### Preambular paragraphs:

- **PP 2:** We suggest deleting this paragraph as it is adequately covered in the current PP1.
- **PP 10:** We suggest amending this paragraph as follows:

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 72/198, in which the Assembly invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, **relevant United Nations agencies and civil society**, to reflect on possibilities for strengthening and streamlining its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving and strengthening the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on possible ways to enhance these, for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-second session,

- **PP 11:** The Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) was instrumental to ensuring civil society involvement at the UNGASS. It has been revived for the 2019 ministerial segment and will be key to ensure balanced, inclusive civil society participation in the segment. We would suggest amending PP11 as follows:

*Welcoming* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, **welcoming also the role of the Civil Society Task Force in ensuring broad and meaningful participation of civil society in the lead up and during the ministerial segment**, and stressing the relevance of the contributions by civil society to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

### Operational paragraphs:

- **OP 4:** We encourage you to consider adding “human rights, gender equality” after “education” in this paragraph:

*Urges* Member States to ensure the participation of experts and practitioners in the intersessional meetings, and in this regard encourages Member States to enhance communication, coordination and collaboration on drug policy issues among relevant domestic sectors, including the health, education, **human rights, gender equality** and criminal justice sectors;

- **NEW OP:** To promote the participation of civil society in the ministerial meeting, we propose including a new OP after OP 4, using language from OP 4 of UNGA Resolution 65/180:<sup>1</sup>

**NEW OP5. Encourages Member States to include in their national delegations to the high-level meeting parliamentarians, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/A-RES-65-180.pdf>

organizations and organizations and networks representing people living with HIV, women, young persons, orphans, community organizations, faith-based organizations and the private sector;

- **OP 7 on organisational arrangements for the Ministerial Segment:**

- **OP 7(a)(ii):** There is still no information in the resolution about the organisation of the round tables. We would recommend including a reference to the seven UNGASS themes:

Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel with the plenary **on the seven key themes identified in the 2016 UNGASS outcome document: (1) demand reduction and related measures; (2) access to controlled medicines; (3) supply reduction and drug-related crime, including money-laundering; (4) human rights, youth and women; (5) evolving trends and realities, emerging challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances; (6) international cooperation; and (7) development.**

- **OP 7(a)(ii):** We recommend also indicating that the roundtable panels should be based on the good practice of the UNGASS where each panel included one representative for each regional groups, two representatives from relevant UN agencies, and one representative from civil society. Even if this might not yet be elaborated in this resolution, it is important for the EU to note that this worked well for the UNGASS and should be replicated.
- **OP 7(b):** This paragraph should mention explicitly the UN Secretary-General, as well as key United Nations agencies:

The opening of the ministerial segment will include statements by **the United Nations Secretary-General**, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, as well as the heads of other relevant United Nations entities, **including inter alia the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, UNAIDS and UN Women;**

- **OP 7(c):** Once again, this paragraph should stress the critical coordination role of the CSTF:

The general debate will include statements by representatives of the regional groups, Member States, observer States and observers and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as by representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders that may participate in the ministerial segment, with due regard to geographical and gender balance, **and coordinated by the Civil Society Task Force;**

- **OP 7(d):** We welcome the proposal for a chair's summary, but one of the key outcomes of the 2019 segment should be a resolution that includes a clear roadmap and milestones for the operationalisation of the UNGASS Outcome Document in line with other UN commitments:

**7(e) A procedural resolution outlining a clear roadmap and milestones in the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, ensuring synergy with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as strategies to strengthen human rights-based and health-based approaches in line with three founding pillars of the United Nations system — development, human rights, and peace and security.**