

Joint Statement

ECOSOC – Item 19 (d) – Narcotic Drugs

Mister President,

On behalf of Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, I would like to thank the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for his presentation. We look forward to the adoption of the report of the 58th session of the CND, in particular resolution 58/8 on the modalities of the Special Session on the World Drug Problem to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016, which will be submitted to the Third Committee for adoption by the General Assembly.

We take this opportunity to thank the President of the General Assembly for holding the High-Level Thematic Debate on the World Drug Problem on 7 May 2015 and take note of his summary. We welcome the high-level and broad participation by Member States during the debate as well as the involvement by civil society and other stakeholders.

We wish to highlight that drug policies should contribute to the prevention of social damages through a socially inclusive and people-centered approach and responses. We also reiterate the need for greater coordination and engagement among United Nations mechanisms and entities to address the world drug problem.

As we move closer to the 2016 UNGASS and get ready to an open and inclusive debate to discuss new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem, we need to ensure that its outcome includes the participation all Members States and observers of the United Nations, organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and other relevant international and regional organizations, as well as civil society.

We remain committed to address in our discussions the many issues related to the world drug problem, such as human rights, social inclusion, public health, development, criminal justice responses and international cooperation.

Thank you.