

## **2021 CND Thematic Discussions**



19-21 October 2021



# Exchange of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of international drug policy commitments at the 2021 CND Thematic Discussions

Vienna (Austria) – The third round of the Thematic Discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), held from 19 to 21 October 2021, fostered an interactive debate on the implementation of international drug policy commitments in follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

National practitioners and policymakers from over 100 UN Member States, as well as UN entities, other intergovernmental and international organizations and civil society experts exchanged good practices and lessons learned in addressing the following challenges: increasing links between drug

trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, low value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money laundering arising from drug trafficking, and increasing level of the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.

Ms. Ghada Waly, UNODC Executive Director, said in her welcoming remarks that the CND Thematic Discussions provided an opportunity "to reflect on the big picture, on how this Commission can help target the criminal structures that sustain drug trafficking."

## Background Information for the CND Thematic Discussions

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States, while acknowledging that tangible progress had been achieved over the past decade, noted with concern the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem and committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein. In the stocktaking part of the Declaration, Member States identified a number of challenges to the effective implementation of international commitments.

Member States committed in para 7 entitled "Way forward" of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to support the CND in continuing transparent and inclusive discussions involving all relevant stakeholders on effective strategies to address and counter the world drug problem, including through the sharing of information, best practices and lessons learned.

A core part of the Commission-led follow-up process are annual Thematic Discussions that are focused on the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.



Ambassador Dominika Krois, Chair of the Comission on Naroctic Drugs at its 64th session and Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office and the International Organisations in Vienna, presided over the meeting.

She recalled that with the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, "Member States committed to accelerating the practical implementation of the joint commitments" to address and counter the world drug problem as well as to "foster through the Commission a broad transparent and inclusive discussion".



With over 600 registrations, the CND 2021 Thematic Disscussions brought together experts and policymakers from over 100 Member States, UN entities partners, intergovernmental and international organizations and civil society experts from around the world.

Expert panellists participated from Australia, Cape Verde, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, the United States, and Turkey. In addition to introductory remarks and presentations by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), representatives from the African Union Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) made presentations in their respective field of expertise during the panel discussions. Observers from non-governmental organizations, including from NGOs in Canada, Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Nigeria, Serbia, and the United Kingdom, also made statements.

### Three Challenges Discussed at the 2021 CND Thematic Discussions

Based on the challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the Commission, adopted in June 2019 a multi-year workplan to discuss how these challenges can be addressed through effectively implementing the provisions contained in the 2016, 2014 and 2009 documents. During the third round of CND Thematic Discussions, the Commission focused on how to address the challenges, that:

- Increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and moneylaundering and, in some cases, terrorism, including moneylaundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, are observed;
- The value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low; and
- The criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing.





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Background Note

As was the case for the 2020 Thematic Discussions, the Secretariat prepared a BACKGROUND NOTE this year (exceptionally in the 6 UN Official Languages) to provide information on the challenges and to facilitate a dialogue during the Commission's thematic sessions. The note is available at: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64 Session\_2021/thematic-sessions.html, and reflects findings from the 2021 World Drug Report (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/ en/data-and-analysis/wdr2021.html), and contributions provided by the UNODC substantive sections.











In line with the Commission's efforts to collect and share good practices and lessons learnt, statements and presentations made during the three day meeting were published on the Commission's dedicated 2019 Ministerial Declaration follow-up website: https://www.unodc.org/hlr/en/FollowupProcess.html.



icking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in pers trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering and, in some cases, ten

Statements & Presentations

http://cnd.unodc.org/

CND DIGEST



AMBASSADOR DOMINIKA KROIS, CHAIR OF THE 64TH CND SESSION



HERNAN EPSTEIN, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS **BRANCH OF UNODC** 



JO DEDEYNE-AMANN, SECRETARY TO THE CND AND CHIFF OF SGR



LIVE BRENNA, THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CYBERCRIME OF UNODC



MICHIEL VAN DYK HEAD OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME AGAINST MONEY-I ALINDERING



TIPHANIE CRITTIN. HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING SECTION



## Social media campagin

In preparation for the 2021 CND Thematic Discussions, the Secretariat launched a SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN on the Commission's Twitter Account (@cnd\_tweets) to raise awareness for the challenges discussed during the 2021 session, with facts from the 2021 UNODC World Drug Report as well as a video series on the 2020 challenges.





For more information on the @CND\_link to the webcast, visit: bit.ly/3CJF



PANELISTS Please click the photos below to access the biographies of the panelists and experts for the 2021 CND thematic discussions

Each of the three thematic sessions consisted of introductory presentations by UNODC, followed by a panel discussion and an interactive debate. The panels included experts from Member States nominated through the Regional Groups, representatives from UN entities, international and regional organizations as well as civil society representatives. Following past practice, civil society panellists and speakers were nominated through the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs in cooperation with UNODC Civil Society Unit. Experts' and Speakers' profiles had been posted on the website

Session 1: Links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism.



### **Policy Commitments**

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States noted the persistent and emerging challenges related to the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism. In response to those challenges, Member States committed to strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation and promoting information-sharing, in particular among judicial and law enforcement authorities.

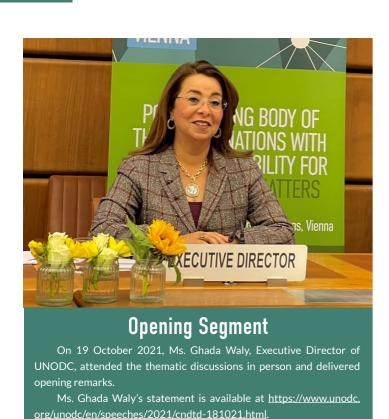
In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly held in 2016, Member States adopted a set of operational recommendations on addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities. In those recommendations, Member States called for an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions. In the recommendations, Member States were also encouraged to use the existing subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms to combat all forms of drug-related crime. The recommendations further called upon Member States to improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to better measure and evaluate the impact of such crimes and to further enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses in that regard.

In the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, Member States stressed the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed



by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of

In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, it was highlighted that Member States should take into account possible linkages between trafficking in narcotic drugs and trafficking in psychotropic substances, the involvement of terrorist groups in some parts of the world, corruption and transnational organized crime, including trafficking in firearms and moneylaundering, when developing and implementing supply reduction strategies. In order to reduce violence related to drug trafficking, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 called for the implementation of preventive and enforcement measures to combat all forms of criminal activity that may be linked to trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Member States also committed to increasing information-sharing among law enforcement authorities and judicial cooperation in order to identify and investigate possible links between the criminal organizations involved in trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other criminal activities, including, in particular, the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. In addition, Member States were encouraged to strengthen anticorruption measures and the provision of technical assistance and capacitybuilding in order to disrupt organized criminal groups' illicit trade in drugs and reduce supply.





### Introductory remarks

Following the opening segment, the thematic session was kicked off by an introductory presentation delivered by the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC.

Angela Me in her presentation highlighted that evidence regarding the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime was scarce particularly with regards to trends at the global level.

### Panel & Thematic debate

The expert panel included experts from Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Europol, Interpol, OAS, OHCHR, and UNICRI, as well as an  $expert from \ the \ Vienna\ NGO\ Committee\ on\ Narcotic\ Drugs, representing\ civil\ society.\ Observers\ from\ non-governmental\ organizations, including\ from\ Narcotic\ Drugs, representing\ civil\ society.$ the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and the Uganda Youth Development Link, also made statements.

Please click here for the full list of the panellists and experts and the statements and presensations for the 2021 CND Thematic Discussions. Please also click the circles below to access the biographies of the panellists and experts.



Sunday Joseph MBONA, Director, Prosecution and Legal Services, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of



Mehmet Fatih UÇAR, Director of Proceeds of Crime Division of the Counter-Narcotics Department of Turkish National Police



Juan Manuel NúñEZ LÓPEZ, Advisor to the Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia



Christopher BULKAN, Vice Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee, OHCHR



Leif VILLADSEN, Senior Programme Management Officer of **UNICRI** 



David CAUNTER, Coordinator of the Drug Unit of INTERPOL



Jari LIUKKU, the Head of European Serious Organised Crime Centre of EUROPOL



Ambassador Adam NAMM, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of Organization of OAS



Tariq KHOSA, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs



Edgar Guerrero CENTENO. Director General de Analisis Nacional del Centro de Planeacion, Analisis e Informacion para el Combate a la Delincuencia de Mexico



Pierre LAPAQUE, Representative of the UNODC Country Office in Colombia



Nicholas COLE, Programme Coordinator for the Container Control Programme in the ROPAN, UNODC



Tiphanie CRITTIN, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section of UNODC



Simonetta GRASSI, the Implementation Support Section of the Organized Crime Branch of UNODC



David FREND. Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism Adviser, UNODC



# Session 2: The value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global

### **Policy commitments**

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States noted with concern that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking remained low at the global level. Member States committed to strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation and promoting information-sharing, in particular among judicial and law enforcement authorities, in order to effectively identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate assets and proceeds of drug-related crime and ensure their disposal, including sharing, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and, as appropriate, their return, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly held in 2016. Member States committed to continuing to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instruments. In addition, Member States committed to enhancing national, regional, subregional, interregional and international capacity to prevent and countermoney-launderingandillicitfinancial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, including, as appropriate, through detection, investigation and prosecution of such activities, with a view to effectively addressing safe havens, and to identifying and mitigating moneylaundering risks linked to new technologies, as well as emerging money-laundering methods and techniques, by using, inter alia, existing UNODC technical assistance tools. Member States were called upon to develop

and strengthen bilateral, subregional and international mechanisms to share information among competent authorities and promote their cooperation to effectively and in a timely manner identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate assets and proceeds of drug-related crime and ensure their disposal, including sharing, in accordance with the 1988 Convention, as well as their return, in appropriate drugrelated corruption cases, in the framework of the Convention against Corruption, or, as appropriate, in cases of drug-related crimes involving transnational organized groups, consistent with the Organized Crime Convention, and to encourage the timely sharing of operational information among relevant law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and financial intelligence units.

In the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, Member States agreed on a number of recommendations to counter moneylaundering and promote judicial cooperation. Member States underscored the need for increased availability of information on proceeds of crime resulting from transnational organized crime, in order to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking. They also underscored the need to strengthen national, regional and international networks for the exchange of operational information in compliance with national legislation and procedures among the relevant authorities, in order to facilitate the detection, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking and related crimes and criminal

Member States adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 with

a pillar on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation, Member States committed to: (a) establishing new or strengthening existing domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, precursor diversion and other serious crimes of a transnational nature in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering; (b) establishing new or strengthening existing financial and regulatory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions, including natural and legal persons providing formal or informal financial services, thus preserving the integrity, reliability and stability of financial and trade systems; (c) implementing effective detection, investigation, prosecution and conviction measures: and (d) promoting effective cooperation in strategies for

countering money-laundering and in moneylaundering cases.

In its resolution 64/1, entitled "Statement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Member States' joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem", the Commission recognized and supported the efforts of law enforcement authorities and members of security forces in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes, noting that their sustained efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, often undertaken at great risk to their health and that of their families, had resulted in increases in arrests, seizures of drugs and property and the freezing of assets.

### Introductory remarks

Introductory presentations of session two were delivered by Angela Me, the Chief of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch, and Michiel van Dyk, the Head of the Global Programme Against Money Laundering of UNODC Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section.

UNODC emphasized the importance of comparing confiscated proceeds of drug crime with drug profits and related financial flows. A framework to measure illicit financial flows (IFFs), taking into consideration the value of exported drugs and inward IFFs, and the value of imports of precursors and related outward IFFs, was introduced. According to available data, it was reiterated that the value of assets frozen and confiscated in relation to drug trafficking offences remained low. It was further mentioned regarding the commitment to attain sustainable development goal target 16.4 (by 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime), that it was estimated that currently less than 1% of criminal proceeds was confiscated. The UNODC experts highlighted that it was not only important to investigate drug trafficking predicate crime and confiscate drugs, but also to conduct parallel financial investigations and confiscate criminal profits and related assets.





#### Panel & Thematic debate

The expert panel on 20 October 2021 included experts from Nigeria, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Australia, South Africa, Cape Verde, EUROPOL and the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs. Observers from non-governmental organizations, including from the World Federation against Drugs and the International Drug Policy Consortium, also made statements. Please click the circles for speakers' profiles.



Director Assets and Financial Investigation National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria



Main investigator at the Directorate of Interdiction, Deputy of Eradication of the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia



Cindy Guadalupe Mendoza PÉREZ. Director for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico



Consultant of the Directorate on Countering Money Laundering of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation



Stephen FRY, Commander, Criminal Assets Confiscation, Australian Federal Police



Burkhard MÜHI Head of Economic and Financial Crime Centre. Operations department of EUROPOL



John COLLINS. Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs



Priya BISESWAR, Special Director of Public Prosecutions, Asset Forfeiture Unit, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa



Kylly FERNANDES. President, the Union of Magistrates Association of the Public Ministry of Cape Verde



Shervin MAJI FSSI Chief Conference Support Section, UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch



Fitz-Roy DRAYTON UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Thailand



Danilo CAMPISI Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries of UNODC



Gabriel ANDREUCCETTI, Coordinator for the Center of Excellence on Illicit Drug Supply Reduction of UNODC Brazil



## Session 3: Criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities.

### **Policy commitments**

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States expressed concern that the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities was increasing.

In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly held in 2016, Member States committed to supporting research, data collection, analysis of evidence and sharing of information and to strengthening law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses, as well as international cooperation, to prevent and counter drug-related criminal activities using the Internet, consistent with relevant and applicable law. In addition, they called for increasing the provision of technical assistance and capacitybuilding at all levels to Member States, upon request, to prevent and counter the use of technologies. including the Internet, by drug trafficking networks and transnational criminal organizations, to facilitate drug-related activities.

Furthermore, in the outcome document, Member States were called upon to enhance the capacity of national authorities, in particular law enforcement authorities, to preserve and analyse electronic evidence related to illicit activities, including drug trafficking and money-laundering, and to monitor sales of illicit drugs using the Internet. Member States were encouraged to use the Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet, as appropriate. Regarding the use of the

Internet for prevention purposes. Member States committed to supporting measures on the use of the Internet for prevention purposes, including appropriate counselling and information provision, to developing, implementing and promoting, in accordance with national legislation, prevention strategies, programmes and measures, including via social media and other social networks, aimed at, inter alia, protecting children and young people from the abuse of controlled substances and new psychoactive substances and from involvement in their illicit sale and purchase via the Internet, and to enhancing cooperation at noted that changes in trafficking routes

In the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, Member States reiterated the need respond to shifting trafficking routes and new drug trafficking trends, including Internet-based e-commerce and mail-order services. In addition, they underlined that information and communications technologies were a facilitator of the distribution of new psychotropic substances, and they stressed need to strengthen cooperation by collecting and sharing data on the production, distribution and effects of those substances.

In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, Member States were called upon to make efforts to ensure that appropriate procedural and substantive legislation was developed at the national level to deal with drug trafficking carried out in an electronic environment, including a framework

for the effective regulation and oversight of online pharmacies operating or delivering pharmaceutical preparations containing internationally controlled narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances within their respective jurisdictions. It was also recommended that Member States address, through concerted action, the illegal sale of preparations containing amphetamine-type stimulants through the Internet and the misuse of postal and courier services for smuggling such preparations.

In its resolution 64/1, the Commission and methods, including increased maritime trafficking and online sales of drugs through both the darknet and the surface web. had resulted in new challenges for law enforcement authorities. The Commission encouraged Member States to expand law enforcement activities targeting trafficking modalities that had emerged or increased in the context of COVID-19 and to increase coordination between Member States. In addition, the Commission urged Member States to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to counter the exploitation by drug traffickers of traditional and online trafficking methods and routes during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

### **Introductory remarks**

On 21 October, the Commission discussed the challenge that "the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing." Chloé Carpentier, Chief of the UNODC Drug Research Section, and Neil Walsh, Chief of the UNODC Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section, introduced the topic, including the statistics and trends regarding the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for drug-related activities.

It was explained that the online drug sales occur on the clear web, the deep and the dark web, and that the main advantage of the dark web was the anonymity. It was stressed  $that\,the\,dark\,web\,drug\,markets\,had\,expanded, and\,cannabis\,and$ stimulants accounted for a large proportion of sales on the dark web. It was highlighted that dark web markets were spreading geographically, and serious concerns were expressed over the challenges to obtain reliable and credible data regarding online drug sales. UNODC experts underlined that while the traditional offline drug supply remained to be the most widely means of distribution, online drug sales had increased dramatically.







### Panel & Thematic debate

The expert panel on 21 October included experts from Indonesia, South Africa, the Russian Federation, the United States, Peru, INCB, UNICRI, UPU, EUROPOL, EMCDDA, African Union Commission and the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs. Observers from non-governmental organizations, including from the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and the International Drug Policy Consortium, also made statements.



Agus IRIANTO, PhD, Head of Research, Data, and Information Centre, National Narcotics Control Board, Republic of Indonesia



Zakes SETHWAPE, Colonel, South African Police Service



Dmitry SAPEGIN, Deputy Head of Section on countering drugrelated threats in the field of IT-technologies, Main Directorate for Drug Control of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation



Katharine A. WAGNER, Trial Attorney, Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice



Jagjit PAVADIA, President, International Narcotics Control Board



Leif VILLADSEN, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNICRI



Dawn WILKES, Postal Security Programme Manager, Universal Postal Union



Philipp AMANN, Head of Unit, European Cyber Crime Centre, EUROPOL



Teodora GROSHKOVA, Principal Scientific Analyst, Markets, Crime and Supply Reduction Sector, EMCDDA



Abel BASUTU, Senior Drug Control Programme Officer, African Union Commission



Kawal Deep KOUR, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs



Miguel Angel Palma VARGAS, Commander, Peruvian Antinarcotics Police



Stefanie SCHMATZ, Associate Expert, Laboratory and Scientific Section, UNODC



Live Brenna, Associate Expert, Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section, UNODC









Excellencies, distinguished panelists and experts,

We would like to express our appreciation for your participation in the 2021 Thematic Discussions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that were held from 19-21 October 2021.

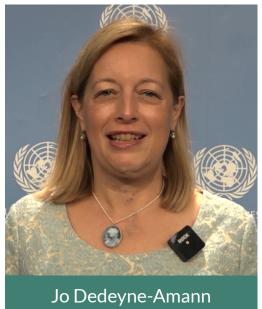
Over the three days, over 600 participants were registered from nearly all corners of the world to discuss how challenges identified in the 2019 Minisisterial Declaration can be jointly addressed.

Your valuable contributions were key in making the 2021 Thematic Discussions a success.

We hope to welcome you soon again to one of the Commission's meetings.

With many thanks and kind regards from Vienna,

Jo Dedeyne-Amann Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs



Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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