

Summary of CND Intercessional meeting on 5 November 2013

The debate was based on the Chair's draft of 30 October, and was directed to finding political consensus. As requested by states, the 30 October draft's structure was changed to the format as suggested by res 56/12, i.e. Achievements, Challenges, Priorities for the three thematic pillars: Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction and Money Laundering and Judicial Cooperation

The first part of the meeting allowed MS to share wording suggestions on the whole document, the second part tried to clean up the proposals in the draft para by para to establish acceptable language. At the end of the meeting, only the first 6 paras had been discussed with regard to cleaning up, but were not finalized yet.

General

Many delegations mentioned the short timeframe and their lack of instructions from capital. It is likely that there will be further changes once delegations received further input. Some delegations, most of all LTU/EU called for a greater balance between demand and supply reduction in the text. While some delegations (PAK, PER) were suggesting adopting already agreed to wording from the 2009 documents, some others (ESP, MEX) strongly questioned this. Especially the preamble part contains language from the 2009 Political Declaration as PER explained.

Key issues

Paragraph 6 Decriminalization and Legalization

“[Member states] take note of the worldwide active debate on the consideration of new approaches towards tackling the World Drug Problem, including a greater focus on public health, the well-being of users and the demand aspect of the drug problem, the legalization and decriminalization of the use of certain drugs, and emphasize the need for an open, transparent and forward looking discussion on these issues within the multilateral system.”

The wording of the para was opposed by many delegations (USA, CAN, ITA, VEN, ARG, ESP; RUS; CHN; GER; SWE; PAK and others). Deletion or alternative wording was suggested during the first part of the session. During the clean-up part, suddenly POR showed its support for the wording “decriminalization” and refused deletion of the whole para. It was decided to settle the issue during informal and the meeting closed after that.

Para 9 Civil Society

While ARG questioned the civil society contribution to the review process, most other comments were in support of civil society. IRL again positively mentioned VNGOC and the survey. AUT, ESP and NOR made some useful suggestions. MEX suggested to follow the wording from the GA omnibus resolution of last year.

As the clean-up negotiations ended before, no final wording was decided on.

Para 14 Harm reduction

USA, CAN, COL, CHN suggested alternative wordings to harm reduction

Para 41: Linking drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime

Hardly any other para was mentioned more often; While seven countries suggested deletion of this para, twelve other supported it.

Para 45bis Death Penalty

CHE proposed an additional paragraph regarding death penalty This was backed by many EU delegations and some others, but contested by the usual countries.

Next steps

The Chair has published the draft text with track changes as established during the meeting. (Attached) The next informal meeting is Tuesday 12 November. The next intersessional meeting will be on 18 and 19 November. The Chair is pushing for a final text at the end of November, but it seems that delegations were not too excited about the speed of the proceedings.