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**Statement by Mr. Cornelis de Joncheere, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

Sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Side Event on "INCB Learning"

**organized by Australia, Belgium, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian
Federation, Singapore and the INCB**

3 March 2020, Vienna, Austria

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us at the side event on INCB Learning. It is an honour to have you with us today.

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to the Government of El Salvador for organizing this side event and to the **thirteen** Governments co-sponsoring it: Australia, Belgium, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation and Singapore. We are very grateful for your support to INCB Learning.

Launched in 2016, INCB Learning assists Governments in ensuring that internationally controlled substances are available for medical and scientific use. INCB Learning provides training to competent national authorities and supports Governments in implementing the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

The United Nations special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, [entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem"] recognized the importance of capacity-building in the area of enabling Governments to better estimate their requirements of controlled substances for medical use. This commitment was reiterated by Member States with the adoption, in March 2019, of the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) in its [resolution 62/5](#), [entitled "Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes"] reiterated the commitment made at UNGASS. The resolution asks the Board to continue implementing capacity-building and training activities for competent national authorities through the INCB Learning.

Since April 2016 to December 2019, through nine regional training seminars, INCB Learning, has trained 274 officials from 95 countries and territories that are home to more than half the world's population. INCB Learning has already resulted in improved timeliness and quality of reporting to INCB by several participating countries. This includes improved capacity of Governments to adequately estimate, assess and report their licit medical requirements, which, in turn, should lead to improved access to internationally controlled substances by patients in need. The 2019 INCB Annual Report, launched last week, highlights the impact of our activities over the years [paragraphs 225 to 228].

INCB Learning has also held national as well as regional awareness-raising workshops on the need to ensure adequate availability of controlled medicines for medical purposes, organized in cooperation with WHO and UNODC. Information on awareness-raising workshops can be found at [INCB's webpage](#).

INCB Learning has also successfully promoted the Board's International Import and Export Authorization System - [I2ES](#). I2ES is an online platform available to Governments at no cost to facilitate and expedite the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. This has been done at the 9 regional workshops I have already referred to and through 12 online webinars over the last 9 months that have provided training on the I2ES systems to officials in of a further 21 countries to date.

Through INCB Learning, the Board has developed [e-learning modules](#) to support Governments in estimating and assessing their needs for internationally controlled substances. These modules are also available free-of-charge for officials of competent national authorities and provide interactive training on:

- Estimates System for Narcotic Drugs
- Assessment System for Psychotropic Substances, and
- Estimates of Annual Legitimate Requirements (ALRs) for Imports of Precursors of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants.

Since November 2019 to-date, the authorities of 75 countries and territories had requested access to the e-learning modules for 343 officials of their competent authorities.

Today, I am pleased to announce that INCB is launching the Spanish language version of the e-learning modules. They are intended to assist competent national authorities in building capacity and maintaining an institutional knowledge base so that they are able to retain the relevant knowledge even at times of staff turnover.

The Board is looking forward to reaching a larger audience with the development of additional modules and their translation into other UN languages. To this end, I would like to thank the Government of the United States and its Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs for the support to enable the production of the modules in Spanish and I would like to invite other Governments to support INCB in further developing and implementing INCB Learning, including for the production of the modules in the other UN languages.

The Board welcomes your feedback and suggestions to improve its e-learning tools and hopes to reach authorities in all regions.

Looking ahead and subject to the availability of funds, in-depth assistance could be provided, for example, to French-speaking countries in Africa and Russian-speaking countries, following on INCB Learning seminars conducted in 2018 and 2019.

The next regional INCB Learning training seminar, number 10, will take place in El Salvador in April of this year, benefitting countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. This seminar will provide targeted follow-up training on specific issues and needs of these countries to promote lasting impact of capacity-building activities. Further support will allow INCB Learning to expand capacity-building activities to Arabic-speaking countries and other countries that have not received any training under the project so far.

The Board is grateful for the contributions to INCB Learning made by the Governments of Australia, Belgium, France, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States. These contributions have enabled the implementation of INCB Learning global project since 2016.

In pursuing Commission resolution 62/5, INCB seeks further support from Governments to expand and continue implementing INCB Learning. The Board looks forward to continuing working with you and count on Governments' support in ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Thank you.