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**Statement by Prof. Sri Suryawati  
First Vice-President  
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

**Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem**

**20 April 2016, 15.00 – 18.00 hrs.  
CR 4**

***Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities.***

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Youth, women, children and communities which are particularly at risk to the effects and consequences of drug abuse and dependence need to be the subject of special attention. The Board has recently stated that prevention of substance abuse in society in general, and in particular among young people, should remain the prime objective of government action. Instruments such as Commission resolution 58/3 promote the protection of youth and children in relation to the use of the Internet for drug trafficking.

Additionally, steps also need to be taken to ensure the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in which States parties agreed to take all appropriate measures to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

In 2015, UNODC published the findings of a study held among women in North-eastern India who use drugs. The study described drug use patterns among women, the adverse consequences of drug use for them, as well as impediments in accessing services. INCB has therefore recommended the expansion of the nature and scope of services provided to women in the future. In part, given these considerations, INCB decided to devote the thematic chapter of its 2016 annual report to the theme of “women and drugs”.

Thank you for your attention.