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

**Special Event of the sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the
occasion of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit
Trafficking:**

LAUNCH OF THE 2020 UNODC WORLD DRUG REPORT

26 June 2020

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to UNODC and to Ms. Waly on the launch of the 2020 World Drug Report on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

I am pleased to be able to participate in the launch of the report, recognizing its value to better the understanding of the world drug situation today.

INCB has specifically contributed to the section on access to controlled medicines for pain management by sharing its data with UNODC and reviewing the draft, and we are pleased to see that this critical issue is gaining broader attention.

INCB continues to support Governments towards ensuring availability of controlled substances including opioids for medical and scientific purposes while preventing diversion and abuse.

The data reported by States to INCB clearly show that disparities remain, with consumption of pharmaceutical opioids in low- and middle-income countries representing less than 10 per cent of global consumption.

INCB has made a [series of recommendations](#) in our special reports aimed at improving accessibility and availability, and the [INCB Learning project](#) is building the capacity of governments to this end.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been able to continue to provide support to competent national authorities through the holding of INCB Learning regional live webinars and the INCB e-learning modules offered in both English and Spanish. The continued support of governments has allowed us to sustain and diversify the way we deliver our activities.

Before concluding, on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, I would like to take a moment to recognize the effect of drug abuse on young people.

While there are many factors that lead to substance use and dependence, vulnerability during early childhood development plays an important role.

It is therefore critical that interventions start at an early age and are delivered at specific stages of pregnancy, infancy, childhood and middle childhood, supporting mothers, parents and schools to promote the healthy development of children.

I urge governments to implement the recommendations we made in this regard in the [thematic chapter of our 2019 Annual Report](#).

Again, congratulations to UNODC on the launch of the 2020 World Drug Report. We are pleased to be able to collaborate with UNODC in the sharing of data, information and expertise - not just for the World Drug Report – but also in our day-to-day work.

For INCB's Annual Reports, we benefit from use of ARQ data and information on country and regional developments, including from UNODC's field offices. UNODC is also invited to the Expert Group Meetings held by the Board. In turn, INCB provides relevant UNODC staff members with access to PICS and IONICS, and information and data is exchanged on a case-by-case, day-to-day basis.

INCB remains committed to working with States Parties, the Commission, and key partners, including UNODC and WHO, towards full implementation of the international drug control treaties.

Thank you.
