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**Statement by Ms Jagjit Pavadia, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

Sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Item 5(b) Challenges and future work of the CND, the WHO and the INCB in the
review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations**

Vienna, 15 March 2022

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under Item 5(a) I will be reporting to you tomorrow on the process regarding the scheduling recommendation for three fentanyl precursors, 4-AP, 1-boc-4-AP and norfentanyl, in the Tables of the 1988 Convention.

Under item 5 (b), I am pleased to note that this scheduling process, the proposal notification, collection of inputs by Governments, assessments and the communication of the Board's recommendation on scheduling to the Chair of the Commission, was completed expeditiously. We believe that the absence of no known or wide legitimate uses of these three substances coupled with the increased awareness on the scourge of fentanyls and synthetic opioids by the international community contributed to the process.

As Governments move to implement the CND scheduling decisions and place individual chemicals under national control, I would like to highlight that pursuant to article 12, paragraph 6 of the Convention, Parties to the Convention should do so within 180 days after the date of communication.

However, for substances without known legitimate use beyond maybe limited research and analytical purposes, which was the case for most of the Commission's recent scheduling decisions, the Board is of the opinion that the implementation can be even faster. I therefore call on all parties to consider this possibility.

This leads me to our recently released guidance document entitled "Proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors: options for global action", which contains a menu of viable and proven policy options in areas relevant to competent national authorities, law enforcement, judicial practitioners and other entities tasked with precursor control. This guidance document is available on our website in all UN languages and I encourage you to take advantage of this important resource.

Looking forward, what we can expect is that the international precursors control landscape will continue to evolve and that substance-by-substance scheduling will not be able to keep pace with the transformations of illicit drug manufacture. We also know that scheduling in the Tables of the 1988 Convention remains the only internationally binding mechanism.

I would therefore like to reiterate the Board's recommendation to Governments planning to propose a chemical for international control to also consider closely related chemicals in their notifications. This is to avoid the situation where traffickers easily circumvent the new international controls simply by turning to closely related or substitute chemicals.

The Board has for the past years advocated for heightened visibility and for strengthened international cooperation in addressing the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors. I am pleased to see that Governments address this issue through various approaches. We also note the continuing contributions to the global policy dialogue. This session is a case in point: besides the voting on the fentanyl precursors, we note the draft resolution on non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors that has been tabled by the Government of the United States, which will offer further space for consensus building and a platform to devise actionable solutions.

In closing, let me reiterate the need for a collective action on the challenges outlined today and underscore the Board's readiness to continue working with the State Parties and partners.

I thank you for your attention.

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