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**Statement by Dr. César Arce,  
First Vice-President of the International Narcotics Control Board**

**67<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Side event: Challenges and solutions to addressing illicit drug  
manufacture  
Wednesday 20 March, 9:10-10:00**

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Narcotics Control Board, it is my pleasure to welcome you to today's side event organized by the Board with the support of Mexico and the Netherlands, under the title "Challenges and Solutions to Addressing Illicit Drug Manufacture", at this 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs.

This side-event aims to present approaches and concrete initiatives undertaken by Member States and INCB to address illicit drug manufacture. The world has witnessed significant changes in terms of illicit drug production, manufacture, marketing and consumption, with the spread of synthetic drugs, including opioids, amphetamine-type stimulants, synthetic cannabinoids, and other new psychoactive substances. Today, criminal drug entrepreneurs have developed new ways of bypassing international and national controls on substances and sources of supply. They use, for instance, "designer" precursors, which are close chemical relatives of controlled precursors, with no legitimate uses at all. Comprehensive approaches that place equal emphasis on chemicals and equipment and

which harness cooperation with industry are imperative to addressing the present realities.

I will shortly give the floor to Mr. Antonio Mazzitelli, Chief of the INCB secretariat Precursors Control Section, who will introduce strategies and tools developed by the Board to support member states in adopting such comprehensive approaches. His presentation will be followed by interventions from representatives of four Member States from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, who will share some of their current national approaches, challenges and best practices.

Thank you so much for your attention and I now give the floor to Mr. Mazzitelli.

Thank you.