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Identifying Common Ground on Criminal Justice for UNGASS 2016

What does a 'criminal justice approach' to global drug policy mean today?

A panel discussion convened by United Nations University

9 June 2015, 10.00am – 1.00pm

Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations

As the UN General Assembly's Special Session in New York on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) approaches, there is a need to consider how criminal justice approaches best fit within efforts to create an integrated and balanced approach for the international drug control regime. Criminal justice and law enforcement-based approaches have been at the centre of global drug policy for many decades. Yet the implementation of criminal justice varies widely. While some states remain in favour of a punitive approach towards the implementation of the global drug control regime, other Member States are seeking a 'rebalancing' of a punitive approach to criminal justice, including considering alternatives to incarceration, proportionality in sentencing, and new approaches to policing and law enforcement.

This panel, convened by UN University and hosted by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations, will consider a series of questions intended to help identify potential common ground on criminal justice issues, such as: How might Member States use UNGASS 2016 to promote a more effective criminal justice approach to implementing the global drug control regime? Should UNGASS 2016 provide normative or programming guidance on alternatives to incarceration? How can Member States adapt lessons learned from policing and criminal justice in one context to another?

Welcome **Ms Terri Robl**, Deputy U.S. Representative for Economic and Social Affairs,
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations

Speakers **Mr Richard Baum**, International Policy Branch Chief, White House Office of
National Drug Control Policy, United States

Incarceration and sentencing reforms

Ms Jasmine Tyler, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Foundation

Ms Simone Monasebian, Director of the New York Office, UNODC

Comparative perspectives on criminal justice reform

Dr Vanda Felbab-Brown, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution

Making communities safer

Ms Amy Crawford, Deputy Director, National Network for Safe Communities

New approaches to law enforcement

Dr Robert Muggah, Research Director and Program Coordinator for Citizen Security,
Igarapé Institute

Moderators **Mr James Cockayne**, Head of Office at the UN, UN University

Ms Summer Walker, Drug Policy Project Manager, UN University

Followed by a Question and Answer Session

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