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**Intervention by Mr. Rajeev Bhatnagar, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau at the
Round Table2 on theme Supply reduction and related issues (countering money
laundering) at the 30th Special Session of the UNGA on the World Drug Problem
on 19 April 2016**

India is geographically sandwiched between two of the major illicit opium and heroin producing regions of the world and affected as a transit country due to trafficking originating from these regions. This surge in the illicit cultivation of the poppy crop has to be reversed through all possible means; otherwise the trends negate all efforts put in by the international community till now. It is apparent that the efforts of the National Governments, international organisations and member States have to be increased manifold, especially in the area of cooperation, for meaningful results. It is worth highlighting here that India has been an active participant in the Paris Pact Initiatives ever since its inception. This is because we are directly affected by opiate trafficking originating from Afghanistan. We have thus made a financial contribution to the Paris Pact Initiative amounting to US \$ 200,000 in 2011 and US \$ 200,000 in 2014.

2. Emergence of **New Psychoactive Substances**, whose number now far exceeds the number of substances under control, through the 1961 and 1971 Conventions is an issue of global concern. The UNODC Early Warning Advisory reports more than 650 New Psychoactive Substances as per the latest reports. India and China are repeatedly mentioned as sources of NPS. However, out of the many categories of NPS reported by UNODC, India has reported only two, namely Ketamine and Mephedrone. We have already controlled Ketamine and Mephedrone' as a 'Psychotropic Substance'. Further, India is actively considering action against the prevalent NPS by scheduling them under the national drug law. An expert committee on NPS has also been formed to look into the issues of strengthening forensic capabilities for identification of NPS. The challenge of NPS calls for urgent response from the international community and the success achieved would depend greatly on the speed of the response and coordinated action with UNODC and international community.

3. The importance of curbing illicit uses of precursors while ensuring their legitimate use cannot be over emphasized. India has taken active steps for strengthening and coordinating the strategy on control of precursors. Globally, the Indian pharmaceuticals industry is the 3rd largest in terms of volume while the Indian Chemical industry is 6th largest in the world. India is a major manufacturer and trader of precursor chemicals. We deemed it necessary to comprehensively revise our regulation in respect of precursors to confront the emerging challenges and thus reviewed and modified the regulations for control of precursors in 2013. These regulations have been extremely helpful in controlling the legitimate use of precursors in the country. These regulations coupled with the controls exercised on export and import of precursors in coordination with partner countries on has ensured that precursors are restricted to legitimate use.

4. To effectively counter the illicit financial flows and proceeds of crime generated from drug trafficking and other transnational organised crime, India has recently amended its laws related to Money Laundering and Foreign Exchange Management Act. The recent changes provide for seizure and confiscation of property of equivalent value within the country, if it is held that property held abroad is in violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act and Anti-money laundering legislation.

5. Further, India in partnership with UNODC hosted 'networking the networks' meeting in November, 2015 in New Delhi on the issue of Countering Illicit Financial Flows Originating from Organized Crime. This meeting was a follow-up to the Istanbul 2013 and Doha 2014 meetings of Networking-the-Networks. The recommendations of the meeting and the increased international cooperation among regional networks will go a long way in countering illicit financial flows from drug trafficking and other transnational organised crimes.

6. Finally, I would also like to inform this august gathering that India has taken a major step in improving the regulation which controlled availability of controlled medicines by notifying in May 2015 uniform and simplified rules leading to removal of the regulatory barriers that have been acting as hindrances to availability of drugs such as morphine and methadone for palliative care, pain relief and opioid substitution therapy. These rules were drafted with the active participation of civil society and the palliative care community. With these amendments, our drug enactment now incorporates the "*Principle of Balance*" which is the cornerstone of the UN drug control Conventions.
