

Statement by
Minister for Health and Prevention
Mr Jakob Axel Nielsen
General debate
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12.35

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

First I would like to congratulate you and your colleagues on your election and assure you of my delegation's full support during the deliberations of this High-Level Segment of the fifty-second Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

I refer to the statement of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union – a statement which my delegation of course fully supports.

Progress has been made since the General Assembly in 1998 decided to address the world drug problem by adopting the Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the Measures to Enhance International Co-operation to Counter the World Drug Problem.

However, the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the individual drug abuser and to the society as a whole.

On this background, the Danish delegation welcomes this opportunity for the Member States of the United Nations to reaffirm the documents adopted by the General Assembly in 1998 as well as the Joint Statement adopted at the Ministerial Segment of the forty-sixth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2003.

The Danish delegation also welcomes the strong commitment reflected in the draft Political Declaration and Plan of Action before this Commission.

Madam Chairperson, please allow me to dwell on one particular aspect which has attracted much attention in the preparations for this High-Level Segment. I am talking about the aspect of harm reduction as part of a comprehensive drug policy.