

Statement of Denmark on the occasion of the Ministerial Segment
of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

General debate of the Ministerial Segment

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I refer to the opening statement of the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States – a statement fully supported by the Government of Denmark.

The Government of Denmark welcomes this Ministerial Segment as an opportunity for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to address the world drug problem.

Progress has been achieved since the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009 adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and since the United Nations General Assembly in 2016 adopted the Outcome Document of its Special Session on the World Drug Problem.

However, the world drug problem continues to challenge the health, safety and well-being of people who use drugs and society as a whole.

Please allow me to dwell on a few points that are essential to the achievement of further progress.

Drug policies should be balanced and evidence-based.

Prohibition and control measures cannot stand alone.

Supply reduction should be balanced with a sharp focus on prevention, treatment and harm reduction, including reduction of drug-related deaths.

It must not be forgotten that the overall aims of drug policies are the health and welfare of human beings as well as the addressing of drug abuse and the harms resulting from drug abuse.

On this background, harm reduction measures have been introduced in Denmark and they have proved to be an essential element of Danish drug policy.

This approach is based on the conviction that drug policies should be built on human rights.

Everybody, including people who use drugs, has the right to be treated with dignity.

Consequently, Denmark is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances. The death penalty should be abolished.

Mr. Chair, to the achievement of further progress it is also essential that civil society is involved in drug policies at national and international level.

To conclude; despite our joint efforts we are still facing challenges to the health, safety and well-being of people who use drugs and society as a whole. Not least the number of drug-related deaths and the proportions of harm resulting from drug abuse are sources of concern.

Bearing in mind the important 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document which is the most comprehensive United Nations policy document on the world drug problem balanced and evidence-based drug policies built on human rights as well as developed and implemented through the involvement of civil society are essential to meet these challenges.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.