

Statement of Israel-
Ministerial segment of 62nd CND

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

The devastating impact of drug abuse on society is a plague no nation has been spared.

This Ministerial segment is an opportunity to review what has been achieved and to assess the way forward, in order to effectively address the world drug problem. Israel welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

We reiterate our commitment to the global efforts to achieve those important goals. We also reaffirm our support for the CND and the INCB as they lead the international drug control effort.

As we work to implement the 2030 Agenda, it is important to emphasize that effectively addressing

the world drug problem is part of the broader effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We must address the problem striving to protect the health and welfare of society, in accord with existing international drug conventions.

Mr. Chair,

In our efforts to address all aspects of the drug problems as part of a comprehensive and balanced policy, the Israeli government established a new authority under the Ministry of Public Security, which leads Israel's combined efforts to effectively prevent and combat crime, violence, drugs and alcohol abuse and thus improve the personal safety of all citizens.

One of the key focuses of the new authority is the community. The local and municipal authorities, being key players, are provided with tools, resources and evidence based knowledge. The aim is to ensure and establish at the local level a

continuum of prevention, early identification, treatment and reintegration services for all citizens, adjusted to specific community needs. Treatment for drug abuse should be based on a human rights centered approach, focusing on the needs of those most affected. Programs must be adapted to gender, age and cultural sensitivities.

Israel has developed a wide range of evidence based interventions and programs, from very young age throughout the school system. We focus on promoting positive and healthy life skills and encouraging parental involvement.

Due to the multi-cultural facet of our society, a wide range of treatment options are offered - adapted to high-risk youth, patients suffering from multiple chronic diseases, detainees, prisoners, and others facing hardships. We are committed to ensure that all people receive the help they deserve.

Mr. Chair,

In Israel, the concept of proportionate sentencing is a guiding principle.

When appropriate, the criminal justice system also employs alternatives to incarceration, including treatment programs, public service or fines.

In this respect, a new reform was approved lately, decriminalizing the use of cannabis for first-time offenders. These will be fined and criminal charges will be pressed only for fourth time offenders. The appropriate Legislation will come into force in April 2019. This new policy represents a shift from criminal enforcement to an emphasis on education, prevention and treatment of users. Particular care is given to minors.

Mr. Chair,

The pandemic of drug abuse is a global challenge, requiring a global commitment to combat it. Israel shares the responsibility, to exchange best practices and information in order to come closer to achieving our mutual goals.

Thank you.