

EU STATEMENT (Interpreters)- Normative

Madam Chair,

We thank the International Narcotics Control Board for its presence today and its comments on the agenda item of implementation of the international drug control treaties.

The multiple interventions from state parties and groups of states we hear today demonstrate the support for the important role of the INCB over the last 50 years.

The EU and its Member States are committed to the effective implementation of the three UN Drug conventions and we welcome the broad consensus of the international community that these three conventions and relevant international human rights instruments are the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

We will continue to encourage the INCB in its role in engaging with all state parties in supporting them in the implementation of their commitments, especially through the consultations and country visits. Additionally, we welcome the INCB's crucial role in supporting state parties to ensure an adequate availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific uses, and with helping state parties to control drug precursors and prevent their diversion to illicit drug manufacture. Lastly, we want to show support for the operational role of the INCB notably through the Global Initiatives Programmes and the Task Forces on precursors and New Psychoactive Substances. We also especially value and support tools such as the Precursors Incident Communication System, and the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) as it plays a vital role in fostering international cooperation on drug precursor.

In the future, the INCB's role shall remain crucial to the UN architecture of international drug control. We are very pleased to see a strengthening of the inter-agency cooperation between INCB and the WHO and the UNODC, especially through the joint statement to cooperate more closely on implementing the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016). We welcome the strengthened dialogue between the INCB and civil society and we encourage further exchange between them on drug related matters.

The EU and its Member States have always called for an integrated, balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach for the international drug policy and we deem the inputs of the INCB as very valuable in this regard. We welcome the two latest annual reports, which focused in 2016 on Women and Drugs and in the 2017 on the linkages between human rights and drug control policy. In our understanding these reports support the implementation of a human rights based, comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach, to ensure the health and welfare of humankind in line with the three drug control conventions.

As we are currently preparing for the outcome of the ministerial segment of the 62. CND we want to stress that the three drug conventions are a key element to guide our commitments in the future. The EU and its Member States also stress their understanding that these three conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remain the guiding principles to address and counter the World Drug Problem.

Thank you, Madam Chair.