

**SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG  
POLICY COMMITMENTS ON IMPROVING AVAILABILITY OF AND  
ACCESS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL AND  
SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES  
AND GOOD PRACTICES**

**6 September 2022 (12PM)**

**OPENING REMARKS BY PR(UN)**

Excellencies and Colleagues,

I wish you all a very good afternoon, and thank you for taking the time to participate in this very important event.

Singapore is delighted and honoured to co-organise this event with the Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, Ambassador Ghislain D'hoop of Belgium. I would like to thank him for his leadership and initiative on this important topic.

At the recently convened 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the CND, Member States agreed to speed up the implementation of international drug policy commitments and improve the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

For small states and developing countries constrained by size and limited resources, progress in this area could reduce vulnerability to global shocks.

We have already witnessed how the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global supply chain networks. This compounded existing structural barriers to access and availability. Even as we try to improve our global health architecture and national systems resilience in the context of post pandemic recovery, we should address this important issue which has a real impact on individuals and their communities.

Singapore is happy to sponsor this event and looks forward to discussions from our esteemed panel including several members of the Forum of Small States.

To start off our discussion, I will briefly touch on Singapore's position which seeks a balanced and comprehensive approach to drug control.

First, we are committed to making the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes a reality for all who need it. Second, we believe that it is critical to prevent the diversion of these substances into illicit channels, trafficking, and abuse. Failure to do so will weaken the international drug control system. Third, Singapore is doing our part and has stepped up our efforts through legislative measures and practical solutions.

For example, on 15 December 2021, Singapore's Misuse of Drugs Regulations ("MDR") was revised to allow Collaborative Prescribing Practitioners ("CCP"), such as registered nurses and pharmacists, to prescribe and administer internationally controlled substances for medical purposes.

The MDR also allows delivery companies to possess and supply internationally controlled substances when acting in the course of their business. Work is underway to refine guidelines to facilitate the delivery of medicines from the pharmacy or medical clinic to the patient.

For internationally controlled substances that have no medical use, the MDR has been revised to allow access to such controlled substances for scientific purposes. Access to such controlled substances is limited to a restricted list of individuals, including scientific researchers, individuals in charge of authorised laboratories. This will prevent the diversion of such substances into illicit channels.

Excellencies and Colleagues,

There is no cookie cutter solution to solve this problem. That is why it is especially important to convene this event to understand the unique and specific national perspectives and learn from sharing best practices. As we take a pragmatic and non-ideological approach to this and other issues, Singapore is

continuously looking at ways to refine our drug control approach to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

I wish everyone a most productive session.

I thank you.

[517 Words]