Remarks by Ambassador Gloria Navarrete, Permanent Representative of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of GRULAC (5°)

- H.E. Ambassador Bakhet, Chair of the 62nd session of the CND
- Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director
- Ms. Angela Me, Chief of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch
- Dear fellow Ambassadors, colleagues, and friends

It is my honor to address you at the launch of the World Drug Report 2019. I thank both the Chair and the UNODC for the excellent preparations for this meeting.

My Government is very worried about the rise in the use of drugs, especially cannabis, among our younger population, and for the dramatic increase in the non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids. This year’s Report show, once again, that Chile is, sadly, leading our region in the consumption of both substances.

The World Drug Report is a powerful warning signal and a valuable input to guide my government’s action in the creation of drug control and prevention policies, as I will mention briefly.

Regarding the prosecution of criminal organizations, especially in seaport areas, Chile created the so-called "Macrozones" a few years ago. These initiatives are an operational gathering of government officials, police agencies, port authorities, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, to coordinate joint operations against illicit drug trafficking. The most affected area in Chile is our northern border. Thanks to the so-called "Northern Macrozone", the largest drug seizures in our history were made in the last two years, including the dismantling of two major criminal organizations.

As we all know, the decrease in the drugs supply does not only happen due to the dismantling of large criminal organizations. The local population, especially in the poorest areas of large cities, are often controlled by small groups of drug dealers that use violence and fear against the neighbors.
To fight this phenomenon, my Government launched a program against micro trafficking intending to change the model of criminal prosecution. Interactive maps have been created to identify the neighborhoods and even the street corners where drug dealers operate. A large number of police officers have been trained to collect high-standard evidence, and dozens of police units have been established specifically to fight against this crime.

After three years of operation, this is one of the best-evaluated programs in the Country. I would like to show you TV images of the joy of the neighbors as gangs of micro traffickers are taken to prison.

Mr. President, dear friends,

In the complex chain of the drug problem, the decrease in demand is also one of our greatest challenges.

As the new version of the World Drug Report points out, and as I said at the beginning of my statement, the use of drugs in my country is at its highest levels in History. In April this year, the Government announced the creation of the program called "Choose to live without drugs", which is a national plan of prevention for children and students.

The last National Survey on School Population prepared by our national drug authority revealed that one every three students between the age of 14 and 18 declared to have used cannabis in the last year. Chilean schoolchildren have the highest consumption rates of marijuana, cocaine, cocaine paste, and pharmaceutical opioids in the Americas.

The "Choose to live without drugs" program, inspired by the "Planet Youth" model of Iceland is aimed to develop the interest of the youngsters in sports, arts, and other areas, to take them away from drugs.

In its first year, the program is being applied to 120 thousand schoolchildren, in 14 hundred schools in the most affected areas, with the assistance of the "Icelandic Center for Research and Social Analysis."

Dear colleagues and friends, as I said, Chile is committed to face the drug problem in its most varied expressions. That is why we received the new World Drug Report as an incentive and as an input of high value for the work of our authorities.

Thank you very much.