

Statement by Sweden at the General Debate of the 63rd CND

Thank you Mr Chairman. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of its member states.

Let me first of all mention how glad I am that Sweden is a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as of this year. We appreciate the confidence that has been placed in Sweden and aim to be a constructive and engaged CND member.

The overarching objective of the Swedish public health policy is to create conditions for good and equitable health among the entire population, and to end avoidable health inequalities within a generation.

In line with this, Sweden is a proponent of a public health-based drug policy. In our view, the right to health is a human right. The purpose of this policy is to limit access to and prevent the use of drugs, as well as offering care and support to persons with drug misuse or addiction problems, and reducing harm and drug-related mortality.

These last few years, the drug situation in the world has in many ways deteriorated. We clearly need to intensify our efforts to tackle the challenges we are facing. Sweden supports an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach to drug policy, founded upon the respect of human rights, where reducing supply and demand is equally important. We align ourselves with the advocates of the abolition of the death penalty as well as with those condemning the use of extrajudicial sanctions of whatever nature.

The UNGASS Outcome Document has given us a modern and balanced framework for addressing the world drug situation. Sweden is committed to implementing the UNGASS recommendations and will later this year produce a status report on progress made.

Mister Chairman,

Sweden welcomes the efforts by UNODC and WHO in supporting countries in the application of international standards for treatment of drug use disorders.

In my country the International Standards have been used as a framework for the continuous development of National Guidelines for Treatment of Substance use disorders. As part of this, we have developed a separate guidance regarding Opioid Substitution Therapy. This shows clear benefits from an integrated approach, in which OST is provided together with psychosocial therapies and social support. Another important issue is the challenges that come with co-morbidity. Persons suffering from a combination of substance

abuse and psychiatric disorders often need coordinated care and support from different sectors.

The equality perspective needs to be strengthened in all parts of drug policy. People must be given equal access to preventive measures as well as to care and support for drug misuse or addiction. Also, a gender perspective must be streamlined into all aspects of drug policy. Equality and gender equality must be an integral part of drug policy.

Finally, let me assure you that Sweden is a committed supporter of the 2030 Agenda and a firm believer that in combating the world drug problem, we also move forward in reaching our sustainability goals. We are now in the Decade of Action, and the time is now to deliver on our commitments, including by intensifying our efforts in addressing the world drug situation.