

Government of Georgia  
Statement of Ms Ketevan Sarajishvili  
Ministry of Justice of Georgia  
at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
*General Statement*  
*Vienna, 2 March 2020*

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Your Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- ⇒ It is great honor to be here with you and speak on behalf of the Government of Georgia.
- ⇒ Georgia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU and its member states and expresses its full support to the emphasis on the implementation of drug-related commitments.
- ⇒ We welcome this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the essential objectives of the UN Drug Conventions, the new trends of the drugs policy under the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document, UN International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy and other international instruments.
- ⇒ Georgia continues to work closely with partner countries and organizations and we do support the effective implementation of the international obligations in order to strengthen the public health and human rights based approach, reduce supply and demand and improve preventive mechanisms.
- ⇒ We acknowledge that, drug issues require complex, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses. For that reason, at national level, Georgian Anti-Drug policy, which is based on 4 pillars, is duly coordinated by Interagency Anti-Drug Council, chaired by Justice Minister.

- ⇒ Data collection and analysis, scientific research, inter-sectoral and international cooperation is another point of departure. For the effective implementation of approach, Georgia established the National Drug Observatory upon the Order of the Justice Minister in January, 2020.
- ⇒ National Drug Monitoring Center, which is composed of all relevant experts of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, harm/supply reduction, addictology, epidemiology, is the institutional guarantee for the development of human-centered and scientifically proved drug policy in Georgia.

Mr. Chair,

- ⇒ And last but not least, we encourage the participation and engagement of civil society, and the academia, all stakeholders in designing, development and implementation of drugs policies that guarantee and fully respect human rights at national, regional and international level.
- ⇒ Having this opportunity, I would like to extend the invitation to all of you to side-event tomorrow at 1 pm on “*Efficiency of Treatment and Rehabilitation Interventions for Drug Dependents in Georgian Penitentiary and Crime Prevention Systems*”, co-hosted by the Government of Georgia, the European Union and EU-ACT project.

Thank you for your kind attention!