

Brazil's Statement – 64th Session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs
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Ambassador Dominika Krois, Permanent Representative of Poland

Chair, at the outset let me start by congratulating Ambassador Dominika Krois on her election as chair of the 64th session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, as well as the other members of the bureau. I know that we could not be in better hands during these challenging times and the Brazilian delegation looks forward to working with you and other member states to contribute to the success of this session. Allow me also to acknowledge the splendid work undertaken by your predecessor, Ambassador Mansoor Khan of Pakistan.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus Brühlhart for chairing and facilitating the discussions in the Committee of the Whole and, in doing so, extend my appreciation to the secretariat for their work in organizing this session in the current trying circumstances.

Madam Chair,

Brazil assigns great importance to the work of UNODC in its task to make the world safer from drugs, organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. We fully endorse the view that the challenges posed by these threats require concerted international efforts and cooperation. Brazil's commitment to finding responses against the drug problem is reflected in our work in the CND. We value deeply the opportunity to take part in the discussions concerning the world drug problem, in particular the debates on demand and supply reduction.

Let me recall that in 2019, Brazil tabled the draft resolution "Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV for women who use drugs, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis", which was approved by this Commission. That resolution addressed specifically our ongoing concern about the prevention and treatment of people who use drugs.

This year, we shall have to deliberate on a set of different draft resolutions, two of which we are co-sponsoring, that address the social impacts of the drug problem, which, as we all know, have been exacerbated by the current COVID crisis. In this regard, I wish to commend all Member States on their engagement in negotiating the Statement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Member States' joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem. Brazil welcomes this statement for it bears witness to our joint commitment and sends a powerful political message to the world at large. I congratulate you, Ambassador Krois,

on your skillful negotiation of this important document approved in the first day of this 64th Session.

Madam Chair,

I would like to use this opportunity to share an invitation to the side event “Innovations of Brazilian Drug Policy”, which is organized by Brazil in close collaboration with UNODC. This will take place this Tuesday at 14.10 and will provide an overview of innovative approaches and new developments in domestic rules and policies on drugs that have been adopted by Brazil.

As examples of such developments, I must mention the new drug policy that was proposed and enacted by President Bolsonaro in 2019, which was accompanied by a new federal drug legislation approved by the Brazilian national Congress that same year. Both the law and the policy convey a strong message against any flexibility in the control of illicit drugs in Brazil.

Our fight against illicit drugs is also supported by an expansion of the care network in Brazil, both for community-based services, hospitalization and rehabilitation services for people who use drugs. The Brazilian government is now carrying out a national population-based epidemiological survey to ensure that all decisions on policy are backed by sound scientific findings.

In relation to the fight against drug trafficking, Brazil has benefited from the improvement of the management of seized assets derived from criminal activities. We firmly believe that cutting off the economic resources of drug lords is one of the most efficient strategies in the fight against this type of crime. In 2020 alone, Brazilian authorities sold thousands of items seized from these criminal organizations, in public auctions that included 15 high value diamonds, 4.5 kg of gold, over 1,000 heads of cattle, 2,500 vehicles and 7 aircraft. The revenue generated by these seized assets were allocated to the National Antidrug Fund. These amounts grew fourfold to total US\$ 28 million in 2020 and they helped to supplement investments in equipment, supply and demand reduction programs, studies and capacity building.

We will be glad to share these and other experiences with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with other member states as well as with the UNODC.

Madam Chair,

Alongside our commitment to UNODC and this Commission, Brazil is an active partner of programmes and initiatives with a range of international organizations, such as CICAD, UNDP and ISSUP, in which we seek to share best practices and promote compliance with international standards and guidelines. We firmly believe that this

cooperation is an essential element of our collective efforts to address the drug problem, and we welcome the opportunity to work all other member states in this Commission towards these shared goals.

This political commitment and our active engagement in the work of the CND as well as our acquired experience have inspired our decision to present Brazil's candidacy for the 2022-2025 term of the Commission. We stand ready to continue contributing to the debate in this Commission, by sharing experiences and working proactively to help build consensus-based approaches to tackle the world drug problem

Thank you!