

Government of Georgia
Statement of Ms Ketevan Sarajishvili
Ministry of Justice of Georgia
at the 64th E-Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
General Statement
Tbilisi, 12 April 2021

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair,

Executive Director, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- ⇒ On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I have the honour to **address distinguished audience** and congratulate UNODC for organizing 64th session, despite the obstacles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this unpredictable and hard times, it is critically important to remain discussions on responses to drug-related security and health challenges.
- ⇒ Georgia **aligns itself with the statements** delivered by the EU and its member states and **express 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 **three international drug control conventions**, the new trends of the drugs policy under the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document and other international instruments.
- ⇒ Georgia pays particular attention to the **effective coordination and cooperation at national and international level** in order to properly combat drug related social, economic and health consequences and harm;
- ⇒ With this aim, the main purpose of the multiagency mechanism, established in Georgia, is to **develop and promote the implementation of balanced and human rights oriented drug policy supported by evidences and surveys;**

- ⇒ Georgian Anti-Drug Strategy and its respective Action Plans **aim at development national measures to prevent crime, provide adequate treatment and rehabilitation programs, reduce of demand, supply and harm;**
- ⇒ Georgia acknowledges the added value of having on place **multidisciplinary and scientifically enriched National Drug Observatory**, which guarantees the **dissemination of reliable data in country.**
- ⇒ **COVID-19 crisis emphasised the importance of solid evidences on all aspects of drug situation and efficient cooperation** with partner international organizations, including at multilateral level, which is essential to respond the challenges on a timely manner.
- ⇒ And Madam chair, as the last note, let me outline the importance of participation and **engagement of civil society**, and the **academia, all stakeholders in desigining, development and implementation** of drugs policies that guarantee and fully respect human rights at national, regional and international level.

Thank you for your kind attention!