

**Statement of Japan**  
**at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,**  
**12 April 2021**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, let me first congratulate you, Ambassador Krois on your election as Chair of the 64th session of CND and appreciate your outstanding leadership. I am also grateful to the other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for their efforts to make this session a success, given the extraordinary circumstances due to the pandemic. You have Japan's full support.

Madam Chair,

All of us have endured very difficult years. Millions of lives have been lost. The pandemic has also destabilized our societies, prolonged social isolation, and strengthened psychological distress for many people. It has also exacerbated the world drug problem by hampering our supply and demand reduction capacities and highlighted new challenges in law enforcement, drug prevention and treatment services, as well as continued access to internationally controlled substances.

While the virus has exposed serious challenges in our systems, it has also presented an opportunity to review and strengthen our approaches to ensure sustainability and build societal resilience, not only to COVID-19 but also to future pandemics and other emerging health threats. We have learnt that we must build upon this momentum and further bolster international cooperation through coordinated action in order to advance our fight in an integral ,effective manner against so many various facets of the world drug problem. We must also advance the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

Japan remains fully committed to the effective implementation of the international drug control conventions. We continue to contribute to international cooperation in countering the world drug problem in cooperation with UNODC, INCB and WHO, in order to ensure the health and welfare of all of our societies.

Thank you, Madam Chair.