

Statement by Ambassador YOON Yeonjean
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 12–16 April 2021

Madam Chair,

Let me congratulate to you on assuming the chairmanship for the 64th Session of the CND. I look forward to a fruitful session under your able leadership and thank the Secretariat for preparing this meaningful meeting.

Madam Chair,

The world drug problem remains a daunting challenge to the international community. Expanding drug markets, increasing cultivation of illicit crops, ever-evolving methods of drug trafficking, and organized crime are just a few of the threats that we face today.

A comprehensive and coordinated approach is needed to tackle these multi-faceted challenges. Member states, international organizations, and civil society should collaborate closely. Scientific and evidence-based approaches in scheduling, timely information sharing, and building administrative capacity are also essential. At the same time, we must continue to ensure access to controlled substances for medical and scientific use.

In compliance with the international drug control system, the Korean Government has been bolstering its response to the drug problem at the domestic and international levels.

At the domestic level, Korea has proactively strengthened human resources, advanced legislation, and introduced new technology. One of the latest developments is the “Darknet Intelligence System” devised by our National Police to track drug dealing on the Darkweb.

At the international level, Korea has been assisting its partners in building capacity, leading international coordination among national officials, and working together with the UNODC and INCB. Korea will continue its efforts to tackle the drug problem in collaboration with the international community.

In this regard, my delegation reaffirms Korea's strong commitment to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and the three complementary and mutually reinforcing instruments: the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document.

Madam Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to remind the distinguished delegates of Korea's candidature for the CND for the term 2022 to 2025. We sincerely hope to contribute further to the CND's work in tackling the world drug problem as a member of the Commission. We would deeply appreciate the invaluable support of all delegations in this endeavor.

Thank you.

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