

**Statement on behalf of Romania on the occasion of
the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 12-16 April 2021**

Agenda item 3: General debate

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank you for having the opportunity to speak in the margins of the 64th CND session on behalf of Romania! First of all, I would like to underline that our country fully supports the statement delivered today on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Secondly, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you Madam Chair, as well as to the UNODC Secretariat for organising this CND session in spite of these challenging times of global health crisis.

This debate will allow us to discuss efficient ways to tackle the consequences brought by the COVID-19 pandemic on the global drug situation. The pandemic has caused a high impact on our societies, which led to the worsening of the drug situation worldwide, affecting especially people who use drugs and vulnerable people by disrupting or discontinuing prevention, treatment and care services, while organised crime groups remained active and resilient, adapting transportation models, drug trafficking routes and concealment methods.

In order to address the new trends and challenges that the pandemic poses worldwide on the drug situation, I would like to highlight a few important aspects to be taken into consideration by the international community:

- ✓ we need to multiply our actions and accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments assumed through the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and of the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document, in line with the relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as to ensure that no one is left behind. The efforts to achieve the relevant drug-related SDGs and to effectively address the world drug problem complement and reinforce each other;

- ✓ it would be fruitful to take advantage of good practices, lessons learned, and opportunities identified during this period in order to strengthen our cooperation at national, regional and global level and further develop innovative approaches to drug prevention, treatment and care services;

- ✓ it would be beneficial to continue to involve and facilitate the participation of civil society in the deliberations on the international drugs policy;

- ✓ drug policies should fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect the health, safety and wellbeing of individuals, families, vulnerable groups of society, communities and society as a whole;

- ✓ it is also important to further commit ourselves to the effective implementation of the three UN Drug conventions and of other relevant international Human Rights instruments, which represent the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

I would also like to stress that Romania fully supports the adoption, in the margins of the 64th CND session, of the draft resolution submitted by the EU, which aims to promote the development of quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services around the globe.

Distinguished audience, Madam Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to underline that we welcome this CND session as a good opportunity to share information and exchange views to further contribute to the broader UN priorities of protecting human rights, promoting peace, security and advancing development.

On behalf of Romania, let me therefore express a sincere hope that our joint efforts will lead to a more balanced and comprehensive drug policy, in spite of the global challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you!