

The 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

General Statement

By

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Agenda 3: General Debate

VDO Statement

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Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start with congratulating Madam Chair on your chairpersonship.

Thailand joins with all Member States to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1961 Single Convention and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1971 Convention, which constitute as the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

We reaffirm our commitment to all three international drug control conventions, all adopted political declarations, and the implementation of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document.

We also support the work of CND, INCB, WHO, UNODC and other concerned entities in the United Nations system to counter the world drug problem.

Madam Chair,

To address adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, every country including Thailand has undertaken new normal working practices at all levels.

In response to the travel restrictions and the social distancing practice, Thailand could continue the communication with ASEAN colleagues, particularly five Mekong countries, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam through an existing online network under the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre or the SMCC mechanism.

Against new challenges of increased online drug trade, Thailand put efforts into enhancing digital capacity of law enforcement agencies and investing in emerging technologies as well as strengthening international cooperation.

To ensure that no one is left behind, Thailand provides treatment and rehabilitation services by expanding a community-based treatment model, using online platforms, and encouraging village health volunteers to play an active role in the follow-up process.

To overcome the rising trend of drug use, Thailand placed more emphasis on drug prevention by expanding safety zones in the communities and promoting awareness raising campaigns for young people against drug use through education curriculums and social media.

In conclusion, the progress made over the last year proves that we are able to deliver an operational plan and make a tough decision even in the time of disruption from COVID-19.

Thank you.