

Statement of Finland
On the occasion of the 65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 14-18
March 2022)

Mister Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of its Member States.

Mister Chair,

Let me start with expressing Finland's full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Finland firmly supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity. We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. It is a flagrant violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the core principles of the international rules-based order.

Mr Chair,

We believe that we need to strengthen our actions in the areas of prevention, harm reduction, and treatment, as well as in the capacity building required for their implementation. We also need reliable data to back our policy decisions.

Experience has taught us that in order to achieve the best results in health, wellbeing and safety, it is essential to pursue multidisciplinary and balanced cooperation between social, health and law enforcement authorities and all other stakeholders - including NGOs, grass root actors and people who use drugs.

During the pandemic it has become even clearer that we need to tackle marginalization and stigmatization. Human rights of all vulnerable groups need to be taken into account.

Mr Chair,

All drug policies have to be implemented comprehensively while respecting human rights. Health, well-being, safety and security of people and societies are essential. We also align ourselves with the advocates of the abolition of the death penalty as well as with those condemning the use of extrajudicial sanctions of whatever nature.

Mr Chair,

Let me conclude by sharing the deep concern of the INCB over the emerging humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. This emergency situation requires urgent action to ensure access to medications, including medicines containing internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. We have to do all we can to utilize simplified control procedures for the export, transportation, and provision of medicinal products containing controlled substances in this emergency situation.

Thank you Mr. Chair.