

Japan
Statement by Ambassador Hikihara
at the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
14 March 2022

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador D'Hoop, on your election as CND Chair. I am convinced that your able guidance will lead this session to success. Please be assured that you have Japan's full support. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for their successful organization of this session during these particularly challenging times.

Mr. Chair,

Let me first refer to the current situation in Ukraine. Russia's aggression against Ukraine seriously infringes upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. This unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force shakes the very foundations of the international order in Europe, and in every corner of the globe. The series of decisions and acts of Russia are clear and flagrant violations of international law and the United Nations Charter. Japan

condemns in the strongest terms Russia's acts of aggression. Russia must immediately stop the aggression, withdraw its forces back to Russia, and come back to the path of diplomacy. .

Mr. Chair,

In an world which suffers increasing division and polarization, we have gathered here in good faith to learn from each other's successes as well as shortcomings. We should explore comprehensive measures to address and combat drug related issues worldwide including the rise of synthetic drugs, illicit manufacturing, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs. We should also address the issue of inadequate access and availability to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. We have been entrusted by our governments to help secure the health and welfare of our communities, especially of our most vulnerable. This common endeavor brings us to work together.

Japan is committed to implementing our obligations under the three drug control conventions, which constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system and we encourage others to follow suit. We acknowledge however disparities in research, knowledge and in capacity of those willing to implement the Conventions but unable to so. This issue must be addressed and cooperation is an answer to this end.

Japan is committed to strengthening international cooperation in the realm of research, safety and security, by training, building awareness, and education of health care professionals, customs agents and law enforcement officers. We also contribute to building technical capacity under the guidance of UNODC, INCB, and WHO.

Following the collapse of the Afghan Government, the Office's quick response to the crisis despite setbacks posed by global COVID restrictions, both at HQ and at regional levels, was highly commendable. We appreciate the valuable work of UNODC. We will continue supporting its mandates and initiatives, such as the UNODC Strategic Stability Grid, which will monitor, prevent and contain threats, including those related to drugs in and around Afghanistan in order to promote stability and offer protection to the most vulnerable. Japan will continue to make every effort to combat the world drug problem together with other members of the international community.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.