

The 65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

General Statement

By

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Ministry of Justice of Thailand

Agenda 3 : General Debate

VDO Statement

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing Thailand's support for your chairmanship, Mr. Chair, and extending our appreciation to the efforts of Secretariat for this meeting.

Thailand commits to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments with full respect of the principle of equal rights and mutual respect, as well as common and shared responsibilities.

We believe that the guidance of the CND could contribute to building back better from the COVID-19 while achieving the 2030 SDGs.

Thailand aligns with the recommendations from the UNGASS outcome document through almost a decade of effort on our new narcotics code, which has come into effect in December last year.

Also, next year, the five-year drug control strategy 2023-2027 will be launched as a framework for countering emerging challenges with the

focus on increasing number of drug patients registered under voluntary drug treatment, increasing value of asset seized by applying the value-based confiscation concept, increasing cooperation in developing national and regional chemical database and establishing International Narcotics Control College.

Almost five decades, Thailand has been committing to the work of the CND, including by contributing to the United Nations Guiding Principle on Alternative Development and supporting capacity building of the law enforcement, forensic laboratories, and border control agencies for countries in the region.

Thailand has strong determination to extend its membership to the CND for 2024 to 2027. We will continue to advocate for the rights-based and health-based drug policy, ensuring the availability and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and sharing best practices on alternative development. We also seek support from the Member States for the Alternative Development resolution tabled by Germany, Peru and Thailand.

In conclusion, Thailand is committed to support the work of the UNODC, INCB, WHO and other concerned entities in the UN system to counter the world drug problem.

Thank you.