



STATEMENT

by

Mr. Arunas Dulkys

Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania

on the occasion

of the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Vienna, 14 March 2022

Mr. Chair,]]

Madam Executive Director,]]

Excellencies,]] Distinguished **delegates,]]**

Considering the **seriousness** of the situation at the **moment** when I'm recording this **message]]**, it is **impossible** to remain **silent**. We **condemn** in the strongest possible terms **]]**the **open large-scale unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine,]]**the **independent, sovereign and peaceful country]]**, by armed forces of the **Russian Federation]]**with the support of **Belarus**.

At this **grave** hour, **]]** Lithuania **reiterates** its **full** solidarity with the **people of Ukraine** and **demands** from the Russian Federation the **immediate end of this aggression**, which endangers international peace and security at a global scale.

Mr. Chair,]]

I would like to thank **you** and the **UNODC (junoudysy) Secretariat]]** for making this CND (cyendy) session **possible** during this challenging pandemic situation we face these past years. **]]**

Fully aligning with the **statement** delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, **]]** I would like to share a few **reflections** from our **national perspective.]]**

This year has started with **two prominent** occasions for Lithuania. **]]** Our country was elected as a **member of the Human Rights Council** for the 2022-24 term and **the CND** for 2022-25 term. **]]** In this light, **]]**we **reiterate** our commitment to an **integrated,]]****balanced,]]****evidence-based, and multidisciplinary approach** in drug policy **]]**respecting **human rights**. In this context, Lithuania **strongly supports the abolition of death penalty.]]**

Last year, **]]**in line with the UNGASS (ungas) outcome document and our National Strategy, **]]**Lithuania has adopted an **Action Plan** on Improving the **Access]]**and **Quality** of Addictions **Treatment** and **Harm Reduction**. This **plan** aims to **ensure]]**that persons with substance use disorders and behavioural addictions are provided with **timely,]]****high-quality** treatment services

that **meet their needs**.]Furthermore, it aims to **reduce harms** to the individual and society caused by substance use or behavioural disorders.]

In order to **adopt** effective decisions,]Lithuania has engaged with **all** relevant stakeholders and social partners]in shaping national policy on reduction of psychoactive substance use as well as this action plan.]We have to **communicate**,]we have to **be open** and **rely** on independent evidence,]we have to **be open** to different opinions, and **fully** respect human rights. **This is** the way to increase the number of people seeking for treatment and support of any kind, which could result in **more lives saved**.]

We **foresee** a productive cooperation in implementing our decisions and addressing challenges we might face.]

Thank you.