

SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

BY

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin with my official statement, I would like to point out that we consider Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a technical commission. However, we cannot pretend to live in a vacuum and isolation from the pressing situation endured by the people of Ukraine. Slovenia condemns in strongest possible terms unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which should stop immediately. Russia has violated international law and shown disregard for the global norms that the whole international community has pledged to respect. We recognize this as an ill decision of the Russian leadership, and not of its people.

These are the times that require us to show our commitment to multilateralism, and I am convinced that under your leadership, Mr Ambassador, we will achieve important results and successfully conclude this Session. In addition to what has been said on behalf of the EU, I would like to make several remarks in my national capacity.

I am particularly honoured to address you, distinguished delegates, since Slovenia became a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, for the first time since its independence.

Appreciating the importance of this body in addressing the world drug situation, we have decided to contribute by focusing on the topic of early prevention. To that end Slovenia has, together with France and Nigeria, prepared a resolution on “Promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention”. We are very pleased that our resolution has received positive reception during the consultations.

The area of prevention has experienced important developments in the recent years; indeed, it is now possible and appropriate to talk about the science of prevention. We now have a much better understanding of the successful prevention measures and policies. Effective evidence-based early prevention should contribute to the strengthening of cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioural competences of children at every stage of their development.

Another valuable element of this paradigm shift is that such evidence-based prevention interventions address vulnerabilities that are not unique to substance use. These same interventions can be applied, beside others, for preventing violence, promoting mental health, and improving school competences.

We firmly believe that prevention and early prevention are of fundamental importance in addressing the world drug situation. We are convinced that it is in the best interest of us all to support early prevention and that this support should have a cross-regional character. This is also reflected in the fact that the sponsors of this resolution are coming from three different regional groups. In addition, my country, together with France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, UNODC and Institute Utrip, is organising a side event to support the resolution. The event will take place on Tuesday, 15th of March, at 1 o'clock p.m., with the title “Early Prevention: Development of a New Paradigm”. I wish to take this opportunity and invite you to join us at this event.

Let me use this occasion to express our appreciation of the role of the UNODC in their invaluable contribution to the development of “International Standards on Drug Use Prevention”. Those standards are at the very core of the developments of the science of prevention. For these reasons, Slovenia has decided to renew its financial support for the work of the UNODC. It is our wish to support effective preventive solutions in line with this document. With this aim we have foreseen in the resolution establishing a special expert group to perform further activities.

I am pleased that we have strengthened our engagement with solving the world drug situation at an important anniversary for Slovenia - 30 years of membership in the United Nations. For this reason, we wish to further strengthen our commitment to multilateralism. Therefore, we have decided to present our candidature for membership in the UN Security Council for the period 2024-2025.

In conclusion allow me to emphasize another aspect that is at the core of our commitments for a more prosperous, peaceful, and sustainable world. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While important progress has been achieved over the last decades, concerted and continued efforts of international community are still needed to fully achieve these goals.

Thank you.