

DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Statement

65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Vienna, 15 March 2022

Agenda item 5c: International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

Mr. Chair,

Armenia remains committed to effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions as a cornerstone of its comprehensive policy in addressing the current challenges in this field.

In this regard Armenia appreciates INCB's mandate to support member States in the implementation of the Conventions and its contribution to addressing the world drug problem.

Armenia appreciates the outcomes of the country mission conducted by the INCB in 2018, which were instrumental in further developing of our national drug policy in line with the three conventions and the Board's recommendations.

Based on those recommendations an inter-agency commission aimed at improving coordination among various national agencies in the field of supply reduction and law enforcement has been established composed of representatives from relevant stakeholders and headed by the Chief of Police of Armenia.

Since the mission, Armenia has also launched several drug use prevention initiatives, increased the availability of treatment services, including opioid substitution treatment, and added about 50 NPS to the country's list of controlled substances.

The Government of Armenia will continue to work closely with the Board to facilitate the implementation of its obligations under the international drug control treaties and recommendations.

Mr. Chair,

Armenia has taken note of the INCB's Annual Report 2021 with a thematic focus on drug trafficking and illicit financial flows.

Although we recognize the valuable contribution of the Report to the overall assessment of the world drug situation and value its recommendations on the possible ways to mitigate the existing challenges, we also believe that the Report could only win from closer cooperation with member states, especially on issues which need further clarification.

Armenia looks forward to working closely with the Board and the Secretariat to help ensure a higher accuracy in representation of facts in the report, for the benefit of our common and joint efforts in addressing the world drug problem and strengthening the Board's standing in such matters.

Thank you Mr. Chair