

CND 2022 Thematic Discussions

22 September 2022

Day 2 – Responses not in conformity with international human rights obligations

Mr. Chair,

Uruguay expresses the importance of this Thematic Discussions of the CND about human rights and the drug control conventions.

Some years ago, deliberations on human rights were not possible at the CND meetings and we welcome statements of UNODC and, in particular INCB, introducing in their concerns about violations on human rights by measures adopted by some States, according to the drug control conventions.

Mr. Chair,

Uruguay reiterates its position that drug policies should adopt a human rights-based approach to protect the health, safety, welfare and well-being of individuals, vulnerable members of society, with an aim to prevent discrimination, social marginalization and stigmatization, giving special attention to women, children and youth, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the dignity of all individuals, and against death penalty, in any case.

Repressive measures on drug users have done a lot of harm. The drug policies in the past, in particular the war on drugs, failed to eradicate the demand for illegal drugs and the illegal drug market, but instead violated human rights at all levels and affected particularly developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

Uruguay agrees with the UN system Common Position on drug policy that drug use and dependency should not be treated as a criminal matter, but as a public health issue to be addressed under a human rights approach.

For that reason, we consider that the CND should include in the deliberations the contributions of UN human rights bodies, like the Human Rights Council, and many others, based on scientific criteria from specialized bodies on health, like World Health Organization.

Thank you.