



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !**

**Statement by Slovenia,  
on the occasion of the of the first intersessional meeting  
of the 65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,  
Vienna, 21 September 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by fully subscribing to the statement delivered this morning by the EU. I wish also to express Slovenia's full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and demand that Russia immediately cease its military actions. I will continue now by sharing with you the following national observations.

In Slovenia we believe that close international cooperation and commitment to shared responsibility in tackling the drug problem is crucial in searching for the most effective, humane, pragmatic and acceptable drug policy.

We support extensive international cooperation and endeavours for finding common solutions to various aspects of the world drug problem that are supported by scientifically proven data.

We are also aware of the importance of ensuring a balanced and integrated approach to the challenges of the drug problem. For us, drug supply reduction, and drug demand reduction, including harm-reduction policy and activities are the main pillars of drug policy.

Accordingly, we have developed legislation, national strategy, and a relatively consistent network of programmes, which provide such a balanced approach.

I'm proud to say that in my country for several years we systematically invest into the comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes, which include universal or early prevention, treatment, recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration and harm reduction programmes including needle exchange and substitution maintenance programme.

We have indications that the result of all programs, including harm reduction programmes for injecting drug users, is reduced transfer of HIV/AIDS among intravenous drug users. The number of HIV positive patients among drug injecting addicts in Slovenia is practically negligible.

In the new National Programme in the Field of Drugs for the Period 2022 – 2030, which is in the final phase of its drafting, the main emphasis is placed on a comprehensive and balanced continual development of all measures, programmes and activities that contribute to solving the problems with drug use in Slovenia. One of the main aims is to assure human rights for all citizens including drug users. We believe that drug users should receive comprehensive and quality medical treatment first. In this context we support the proposal by Switzerland to include in the World Drug Report a chapter on human rights.

Let me conclude by saying, drug use is a complex and challenging problem that stretches across national borders and is truly global in nature. Through sharing of our experiences, we are increasing the potential for effective interventions within and beyond any individual country.

Thank you, Mr Chair.