

66th CND – General Statement

Viena, Áustria

National Secretariat of Drug Policy in Brazil:

Marta Rodriguez de Assis Machado

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Let me start by congratulating you on your election as President of the CND, and by recognizing your splendid work, as facilitator of the negotiations of the modalities for the midterm review, to be held in 2024.

Brazil's newly invested Government under President Lula reaffirms its commitment to all International Drug Policy Commitments and to the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

We are unequivocally committed to addressing the world drug problem by means of an integrated, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, respecting human rights, tackling social vulnerabilities and racial discrimination, and emphasizing health, environmental protection and social perspectives.

In the words of President Lula to our National Congress, I quote : *“The country needs a new drug policy, intersectional and focused on risk reduction, as well as drug use prevention and addressing treatment and care for people who use drugs. The current warlike model for combating drug trafficking will be replaced by strategies to confront and disarticulate criminal organizations, based on knowledge and information, with the strengthening of investigation and intelligence”*. End of quote.

Among our main priorities, special attention will be provided to groups disproportionately affected in terms of human rights concerns, such as women, indigenous and black people, children and adolescents, and street population.

We will counter all forms of stigma and discrimination, especially those perpetrated by the State itself.

We recognize the use of drugs as a public-health and social development issue and will work, based on scientific evidence, for the improvement of both the health and the social protection systems.

Brazil is a country of continental dimensions. One of the main challenges we face now is the intersection of drug trafficking and environmental organized crime, with strong impact on the Amazon and on the life of indigenous groups and local communities. These challenges demand effective law enforcement, combined with the protection of the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples.

During the following days, we intend to strengthen our ties with all countries, with a view to building consensus and to forging drug polices conducive to a safer and more equal society.

Thank you, Mr Chair.