

**Country Statement of Sri Lanka at the 66th Session of the Commission on
Narcotic Drugs (CND)**

13th – 17th March 2023

**By Shakya Nanayakkara, Chairman/ National Dangerous Drug Control
Board (NDDCB) , Sri Lanka**

Mr / Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates

Sri Lanka congratulates to the Chair of the 66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and other elected members of the Bureau.

Sri Lanka Delegation extends its fullest support and cooperation to the Chair to effectively carry out proceedings throughout the meeting.

Mr / Madam Chair,

- I. Sri Lanka align itself with the statement of the G77 and China and also statement delivered on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group and I wish to add the following remarks in my national capacity.
- II. The Government of Sri Lanka highly appreciates the CND, INCB, and the UNODC for the generous support and technical guidance in the implementation of national efforts to effectively counter the drug problem in Sri Lanka.
- III. Sri Lanka as a state party to the three major international Drug Control Conventions, has committed itself to establish a drug-free as well as to strengthen international drug control system in conformity with its international commitments.

- IV. The Government of Sri Lanka continues to monitor and assess the emerging trends and complexity of the drug market and determined to review and amend the domestic laws and legislations to control the drug abuse as deem appropriate.
- V. Amendment of Poison Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance has been completed and enacted several legal provisions to control emerging trends of methamphetamine abuse in Sri Lanka and according to the poisons opium and dangerous drugs (amendment) act no 41 of 2022, legal provisions have been enacted to refer persons who are alleged to have committed an offense under the said act for voluntary admissions to medical treatment for de-addiction and rehabilitation.
- VI. Sri Lanka values therapeutic approaches for drug-addicted persons over punitive measures and necessary actions have been taken to incorporate effective and efficient treatment and rehabilitation approaches at the residential and community levels in consultation with the relevant government stakeholders.
- VII. As per the newly enacted legal provisions, a person who is alleged to have committed an offense for dangerous drugs by way of possessing less than one gram of such drug, the person seeks to undergo psychological treatment and rehabilitation can refer them for treatment and rehabilitation service.
- VIII. The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) has initiated a programme of community-based rehabilitation with a new model and a pilot project has been implemented in selected locations. Support of the family and or wives is the crucial factor for the recovery process of the person who depends on drugs. Wives of drug-dependent persons are the victims and co-dependents of drug use and they will become co-therapists through this new model which starts

from a prevention part that targeted the self-realization of drug-dependent persons and family members.

- IX. The Government of Sri Lanka is effectively utilizing the existing human resources to providing prevention and care services at the community level. There is an established organizational structure in the government service at the community level and field-level government officers are working to address different issues of the individuals. Providing prevention and care services is one of the key roles of those officials who are responsible for the quality of life of the citizens. Hence, responsibilities related to prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation have been assigned to field-level government officials with technical trainings and direct coordination.
- X. Coordinated strategy and collaborative approach are the essential part of an effective service delivery system and the NDDCB as the focal point of drug control in Sri Lanka has taken necessary steps to get the active contribution of civil society organizations and non-government sector organizations to the prevention of usage of both illegal and other drugs.
- XI. Further, the involvement of multisectoral organizations in the prevention campaign is ensured and the government of Sri Lanka determined the importance of addressing different social problems together with substance abuse in the process of developing the quality of life and social welfare.
- XII. Sri Lanka launched national level prevention campaigns based on main six (6) categories namely school, media, workplace, environment, family, and youth with the support of relevant stakeholder agencies.

XIII. Sri Lanka reiterates its international commitment to strengthen the International Drug Control System and treaty-based obligations and urge international community and national governments to act together to create a world free of drugs.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and cooperation.