

ECOSOC INTEGRATION DIALOGUE

“Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies”

10 June 2021

H.E. Ambassador Dominika Krois

Chair of the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to participate in the integration dialogue of the Economic and Social Council today, in my capacity as Chair of the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and to contribute the perspective of the Vienna-based Commission.

Let me first extend my sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, who addressed, in his capacity as President of the Council, the ceremonial opening segment of the 64th session of the Commission on 12 April.

As you may be aware, the Commission adopted, at its 64th session, a statement on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Member States’ joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem. The statement has been submitted as a substantive contribution by the Commission to the 2021 High-level Political Forum of the Council on sustainable development.

In this statement, the Commission acknowledged that the traditional demand reduction infrastructure faces increasing challenges, due to COVID-19, in providing prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation, and social

reintegration measures, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse. It is therefore important to **develop and implement innovative approaches** to drug prevention, treatment and related health and social services, with a view to ensuring efficient and accessible opportunities for treatment and recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced once again the need for a global action to ensure that **no one is left behind**, and this is particularly relevant in the context of the world drug problem. The Commission, at its 64th session, adopted resolution 64/5¹ that calls upon Member States to facilitate **non-discriminatory access** to drug related: prevention, treatment, education, care, sustained recovery, rehabilitation, social reintegration and support services, for people who may face obstacles when accessing those services; including **those impacted by social marginalization**.

The Commission also adopted resolution 64/2² that encourages Member States to increase efforts in promoting alternative development programmes to **support populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops**, which may contribute to efforts to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Also adopted at the April session, resolution 64/3³ highlights, among others, the importance of ensuring **non-discriminatory access** to treatment for drug use disorders, including for **those incarcerated as well as women, youth and vulnerable members of society**.

¹ Resolution 64/5 “Facilitating access to comprehensive, scientific evidence-based drug demand reduction services and related measures, including for people impacted by social marginalization”

² Resolution 64/2 “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its consequences”

³ Resolution 64/3 “Promoting scientific evidence-based, quality, affordable and comprehensive drug prevention, treatment, sustained recovery and related support services”

Lastly, let me reiterate that addressing and countering the world drug problem requires **coordinated multidisciplinary efforts**, including through **information-sharing**. In light of this, the CND will continue facilitating, during its thematic discussions in fall 2021, an interactive exchange of good practices and lessons learned among policy-makers, experts, civil society and academia, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the international drug policy commitments.

Excellencies,

Let me reassure you that the Commission will continue making an effective contribution towards sustainable and resilient recovering from COVID-19 and building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.