

Speech by THE EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF DEVIDA AT THE 65th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) ON ACCESS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Geneva, September 6, 2022)

Good morning,

Mr. Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop, Chairman of the 65th Commission on Narcotic Drugs – CND and Distinguished Heads of Delegation.

I have the honor to address this Plenary Session in my capacity as Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs - DEVIDA, a Peruvian entity responsible for drafting and implementing Peruvian's National Policy to fight against illicit drug trafficking, with a balanced and comprehensive approach, and with respect for human rights.

Supreme Decree No. 005-1019-SA was issued by Peru in 2019, to approve and implement regulations of Law No. 30681. This supreme decree regulates both medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis and its derivatives. The Ministry of Health, through its General Directorate of Inputs and Drugs is authorized to issue permits to produce, import and commercialize cannabis for medicinal and therapeutic use. In 2021, by Law 31312, craft production and associated farming of cannabis was authorized.

The National Service of Agrarian Health (SENASA) and the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA), both institutions under the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), are responsible for controlling cannabis seeds imports and granting permits to perform agricultural research of cannabis genetic material.

In addition, the Peruvian Government promotes public health strategy called Integrated Supply System for Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices and Medical Products (SISMED). This strategy aims to improve access to essential medicines for the population, especially for the population with scarce economic resources. The strategy includes essential medicines subject to special or restricted control. The principals of the strategy are equity, solidarity and rationality.

This system provides a set of published, standardized technical and administrative processes for an adequate process of selection, programming, procurement, storage, distribution and use of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and medical products. Thereby strengthening the key processes for supply management in health facilities as there cannot be any parallel supply systems.

The Peruvian State provides a management tool to identify conditions for purchasing, processing, producing manufacturing, importing and exporting of controlled substances. It regulates the prescription of medicines by health care establishments which contain controlled and restricted substances.

It should be noted that during the COVID 19 pandemic, some administrative aspects for the importation and commercialization of cannabis were made more flexible, such as the granting of sanitary registration to new products. Similarly, the commercialization by way of the presentation of prescriptions digitally for virtual care.

In Peru, National Coca Company (ENACO) is a state-owned company that monopolizes the legal trade of coca leaf and its derivatives. Because of countries' restrictions, this entity has been facing many obstacles for securing controlled substances to arrive to the locations they were needed for medical and scientific purposes.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness and call on the international community to reflect on the need to broaden and make more flexible the spectrum of substances subject to control and restriction for medical and scientific use. For example, the case of cocaine hydrochloride at 92%, which is used for surgical procedures, such as anesthesia.

We are convinced that only to the extent that producer and consumer countries unite to work together, framed in the Principle of Common and Shared Responsibility, will we be able to achieve greater progress in the global fight against illicit drug trafficking that affects society globally.

Finally, I would like to advise that Peru, through DEVIDA, is implementing the Citizen Social Pact, a dialogue mechanism between the State and the citizens of the Andean Amazon region that aims to generate a positive change in society, with the voluntary participation of society, creating better conditions for the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Policy by 2030.

Thank you very much.