

National Statement for the 63rd CND

Mr Chair

Executive Director of the UNODC

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Singapore congratulates Ambassador Mansoor Khan on his appointment as the Chair for the 63rd CND.

2 My delegation also congratulates Her Excellency, Ms Ghada Waly, on her appointment as Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna. We look forward to enhancing our strong relationship and collaboration with the UNODC under her able leadership.

Mr Chair,

3 The drug problem continues to be a serious concern for the world. Everyday, lives are lost and destroyed, families are broken and communities are harmed because of drug abuse. We, the global community, must continue to work closely together to tackle this crisis. It is particularly important that the CND, as the UN body with prime responsibility for international drug control matters, remain united in this effort. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation to the Chair for his tireless efforts to find a way forward on the recommendations from the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.

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5 Last year, we adopted a Ministerial Declaration, which reaffirmed our commitment to jointly address and counter the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity.

6 Singapore reaffirms our strong commitment to the spirit and recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration and the three mutually complementary and mutually reinforcing drug policy documents, which are

- a) The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;
- b) The 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement; and
- c) The Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem.

7 Our collective CND commitment to the drug control conventions and the drug policy documents forms the consensus for a concerted effort to deal with the world's drug problem. We must not undermine this framework that we have worked so hard to establish. Nonetheless, we understand that each one of us faces different domestic challenges. This is why every Member State must retain the right to exercise flexibility and implement the drug control policies most suitable for their priorities and needs, as long as these policies are within the bounds of the established framework.

Singapore's Drug Policy

8 Singapore firmly believes that every person has the right to live in an environment free of drug abuse. Our efforts are aimed at protecting this right. We

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adopt a comprehensive harm prevention strategy targeted at reducing both supply and demand, based on three pillars.

9 The first is preventive drug education. If we can prevent, we minimise the downstream consequences. We thus aggressively carry out targeted preventive drug education, complemented with community-driven advocacy. This includes engagements with parents and students through social media, leveraging Augmented Reality technology to enhance preventive drug education content for youths, and other initiatives. In September 2019, we collaborated with the UNODC to host a regional training programme on Drug Use Prevention in Educational Settings.

10 The second pillar is our tough laws and robust enforcement. In 2019, we conducted around 1,400 enforcement operations in Singapore, including at our border checkpoints. We dismantled 28 drug syndicates as part of these operations, and worked closely with our counterparts in other jurisdictions in many of these operations.

11 The drug production in Singapore's region has a significant downstream impact on us. Hence, we actively collaborate with regional counterparts to tackle the supply of drugs upstream. In August 2019, Singapore together with the UNODC Global SMART Programme Office jointly organised the 11th UNODC Global SMART Regional Workshop for East and South-East Asia. The workshop addressed the growing synthetic drug situation in the region.

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12 The third pillar is evidence-based rehabilitation and aftercare. Singapore has invested heavily in this area because we believe in giving opportunities to every single addict to escape their drug addiction and thereby improve their lives. Our rehabilitation focuses on helping them give up their drug habits and reintegrate back into society. In this, we adopt a whole-of-society approach, and work with community partners to provide skills training, job support and counselling. We are happy to share our experiences on targeted interventions to rehabilitate youths, and invite you to join us at our side event on 4 March at 1 pm at the Press Room.

13 Our harm prevention approach has worked well for us. We recognise that drug abuse is fundamentally harmful and has severe consequences not just on the drug abuser, but on the family and community as well.

14 The international community has to rally together to fulfil our responsibility to ensure that our children can thrive in a society free from the scourge of drugs. Let us continue to work together towards this.

15 Thank you Mr Chair.

801 words @130 words/minute → 6.1 Minutes