

Dear Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

Today we would like to talk about **how responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments** based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

As threats to a rules-based international order have become all the more prevalent today, **the need to respect the rule of international law** has become even more important and urgent, as well. Also, in order to strengthen multilateralism, **“respect for accepted norms and standards cannot be ambiguous or selective”**, as clearly stated by former President of the UN General Assembly Vuk Jeremić. In other words, countries cannot pick and choose which international laws to follow without potentially encouraging others to do the same.

However, **the recent legalization trends of cannabis observed at national and sub-national levels continue to push the legal limits currently prescribed by the drug-related treaties**. State parties are increasingly experimenting with their national drug control policies that challenge traditional interpretations of their international obligations, especially over the past few years. Moreover, regarding cannabis, we see that this experiment of legalization has a wide range covering the non-enforcement of existing criminal laws on drug possession and use, the diversion of offenders to non-criminal channels, and the recent legalization of cannabis at sub-national and national levels. While **the trend of liberalization of cannabis is certainly not limited to legalization, it has particularly pushed the legal limits currently prescribed by the three international treaties**.

We have to underline the fact that **respecting the rule of international law is especially crucial to keep the delicate balance of peace, order, and stability offered by international treaty law**. Therefore, it must be emphasized that while international treaties are indeed integral to world peace and order, **their effectiveness hinges upon the good faith cooperation of all parties**. Additionally, the unprincipled interpretation of provisions undermines the delicate balance that was just mentioned.

Consequently, **we kindly ask CND membership to carefully evaluate their stances on their drug policy responses when tackling the world drug problem, especially that of cannabis**. We also kindly ask the membership to consider global peace and security for all while doing so.

Thank you.