

Statement by Vienna NGO Committee (VNGOC)

Agenda Item 10: Preparations for 2024 mid-term review Friday 17th March 2023

Thank you, Ambassador.

Distinguished delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Matej Kosir and it is my pleasure to speak today as the new Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

Chair,

As we turn our attention to the preparations for next year's mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, we note with thanks that the modalities resolution, adopted today by consensus, underscores the important role played by civil society towards implementing the existing commitments. The document further guarantees the participation of non-governmental organisations in both the general debate, and the two interactive, multi-stakeholder roundtables as we take stock of the progress made and the collective challenges that remain.

I want to reassure all member states of our commitment to support and ensure the meaningful, respectful and productive participation of NGOs throughout this process – as we have done successfully in the past, including the 2009 High-Level Segment, the 2016 UNGASS, the 2019 Ministerial Segment, and throughout the 2019-2023 CND Work Plan. We will continue to work closely with the extended bureau, CND Secretariat and UNODC to make this possible.

Alongside the New York NGO Committee on Drugs, we have developed a robust selection and decision making process for civil society speaker selections – which can be easily found on our website. By continuing to use this established process together, we will ensure transparent and fair processes that are open to the full range of NGOs from all around the world for the mid-term review.

In the modalities resolution, you have also agreed to work in good faith towards creating a concise, action-oriented document. We trust that civil society will be able to contribute by providing our unique, expert perspectives and inputs, and that this document will continue to recognise and elevate the essential role that civil society plays in developing, implementing and evaluating drug policies at all levels. We also look forward to continuing to play a positive role in the CND's work plan and thematic intersessionals beyond 2024.

Chair, we count on your ongoing partnership and support in this respect, and we thank you for your continued commitment to civil society participation.

Thank you for your kind attention.