

## **Joint statement on human rights and drugs**

**(for extranet)**

**HRC-47**

**ID with WG on arbitrary detention on its study on drug policies**

**2 July, 2021**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Albania, Greece, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Uruguay and my own country Switzerland.

In 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted the first resolution on human rights and drugs. One year later, the UN General Assembly acknowledged in its Special Session that human rights are a key component of drug policies.

In 2018 a second resolution was successfully presented to the HRC. The subsequent OHCHR report was highly illustrative of how States can design and implement more effective drug policies while fully meeting their human rights obligations and commitments.

The interlinkages between drug policies and human rights have received increasing attention and recognition. One example thereof is the “International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy”, which highlight the measures States should undertake or refrain from undertaking in order to comply with their human rights obligations and commitments.

Mr. Chair of the Working Group,

Both, the current pandemic and the new study of the Working Group on arbitrary detention relating to drug policies provide evidence that much remains to be done. The study of the Working Group underlines that all criminal justice responses to the drugs issue must be strictly proportionate, rights-compliant, and aligned with international standards.

We will continue to strive for a modern, holistic and evidence-based approach to drugs that is compliant with international human rights obligations.

We encourage the Working Group and the OHCHR to disseminate the new study amongst relevant UN, regional, and national bodies. We also call on all States to take into consideration the findings of the study and to develop drug policies that align with relevant international standards.

I thank you.