



Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Health

Geneva, 24 June 2019

Declaration read by Switzerland on behalf of Albania, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Uruguay and Switzerland

Mister President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the following countries: Albania, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Uruguay and Switzerland.

We are concerned that, as indicated in the report of the Special Rapporteur on health, there is a proliferation of policies and practices in which international human rights law and principles are actively undermined or applied in a selective way, including prioritizing punitive policies and legislation to address drug use. As stated by the Special Rapporteur, “these forms of discrimination actively erode social cohesion, affecting everyone”.

In 2018, through its resolution 37/42, this Council reaffirmed the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economy, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility. The Council and recognized the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions.

We believe that drug policies must follow an approach that seeks to promote the health of all, putting the human being at its core, by implementing approaches to deter drug use and promote measures directed to public health concerns. We also wish to underline, that efforts to achieve the SDGs and to effectively address the drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

We reiterate the importance to incorporate a holistic approach to the world drug problem that truly puts human rights and health aspects at its core and does not discriminate against anyone. This means striving for a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to drug policies that is compliant with our international human rights obligations.

Special Rapporteur, where do you see the most important field of action in order to put health and human rights at the core of drug policies?

I thank you.