

67th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Statement on Agenda Item 6: **Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

Statement delivered by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates,

The IFRC and 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies support policies, legislation, services, and programmes to reduce barriers to access health services experienced by people who use drugs. Harms continue to affect disproportionately disadvantaged communities, representing key reasons for health inequities.

IFRC welcomes the High-Level Declaration by the CND on the 2024 midterm review, following up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and also underlines the importance of “determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse” (article 3)

National Societies as auxiliaries to public authorities and deeply rooted in communities, significantly contribute to health system strengthening before, during and after crisis. This includes early warning, prevention, treatment and care in cooperation with civil society, the scientific and public health structure and the affected communities themselves.

Our approach is outlined in the Rome Consensus 2.0 initiative, that combines humanitarian principles with evidence based practices in health, human rights, community responses to substance abuse working together with relevant stakeholders.

We join the call to reform drug policies, shifting away from punitive models towards policies based on health and human rights that recognize and advance the rights of people who use drugs.

We encourage, that policies promote cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches, considering gender- and age-specific needs as well as the impacts of individual, social and environmental determinants to health.



IFRC and our partners stand ready to share our existing practices and knowledge on prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including overdose and associated health challenges - communicable diseases and mental health.

This session of the CND provides a unique opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to discuss challenges and reaffirm their commitment to evidence-based and humanitarian drug policies.

Thank you for your attention.