

Statement by
Minister for Health and Prevention
Mr Jakob Axel Nielsen
Round table discussion:
Demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies
As delivered

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

As it is the first time I take the floor I would like to congratulate you on your election and assure you of my full support during this round table discussion on demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies.

Although progress has been made since the General Assembly in 1998 decided to address the drug demand problem by adopting the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, the problem continues to pose a serious threat to the individual drug abuser and to the society as a whole.

It is the Danish Government's view that the drug demand problem should be addressed by continuing efforts to maintain and extend existing prevention, treatment and harm reduction measures while – at the same time – new measures aimed at reducing the problem are developed.

The Danish Government has put a lot of effort into improving the existing measures both quantitatively and qualitatively. We have also developed a number of new measures. Right now we are making the last preparations for the introduction of medical prescription of heroine for some of the most marginalized individuals in our society.

I would like to stress that in the process of developing new measures, it is essential to take into thorough consideration the fundamental principles of the international drug control system.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.