

# **KAZAKHSTAN**

## **Statement**

**by Mr. Zhanat Suleimenov, Chairman of the Anti-Drugs Control  
Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan,  
at the high-level segment of the Fifty-Second Session of the  
UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Vienna, 11 March 2009

**Madam Chair,**

First of all I would like to greet participants of this forum on behalf of the Kazakhstan delegation and to wish you all productive work.

Our delegation expresses its appreciation to the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Antonio Maria Costa for his substantive statement and for the contribution UNODC has been making into fighting this evil phenomenon.

The current session of the Commission gives us a good opportunity to collectively review the status of implementation of the Political Declaration made at the Twentieth special session of the UN General Assembly, to exchange experience gained in fighting illegal drugs and to devise new concerted measures to overcome existing challenges.

The Central Asian states are geographically located in the area of busy transit routes of opiates from Afghanistan to Europe and they continue to face a rather serious drugs-related situation.

Kazakhstan is affected by these problems too and has been continuously facing the narcotics threat. Among the main factors shaping the drugs-related situation in the country it is worth mentioning:

- Afghan-sourced drug trafficking expansion. 2008 Report by the International Narcotics Control Board states that this country accounts for more than 90 percent of the world illegally grown opium poppy and produces 7 700 tons of opium;
- Imported synthetic drugs (amphetamines, "ecstasy") from Europe;
- Internal raw material base in form of areas occupied by wild-growing drug-containing plants in the Southern Kazakhstan.

However, since adoption of the Political Declaration by the General Assembly at its Twentieth special session in 1998 Kazakhstan has made a substantial progress in solving problems of illegal drug trafficking, demand for and supply of the narcotic drugs.

Our country has adopted a coherent State anti-narcotics policy based on the Long-Term Strategy of the Development named Kazakhstan-2030, a whole array of State-sponsored programmes and a well established international cooperation. Fight against narcotics consumption and drug trafficking is declared a priority Government task.

Kazakhstan is well integrated into the international drugs control system and we ratified all three UN Anti-Narcotics Conventions.

The Anti-Drugs Control Committee reporting to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been active in its statutory area of responsibility to coordinated drugs control efforts in the country.

We adopted the Strategy to fight drug consumption and illegal trafficking for 2006–2014 and among its main areas of activities it proclaims stepping up efficiency of drug dependency prevention measures, drug consumers' therapy and rehabilitation, drug-trafficking control, strengthening inter-agency cooperation in these areas while actively involving social community too.

On the southern borders of the Republic we have established 45 frontier stations, 25 joint Border Guards and Customs border crossing points. During the last 6 years (from 2003 to 2008) Kazakhstan has exposed over 62.5 thousand drugs-related criminal offence, and more than 27 thousand of them are connected with drugs distribution and in excess of 2 thousand are related with across the border trafficking, the amount of seized drugs amounts to more than 143 tons, including 6.7 tons of opiates.

However, the porosity of the common borders of Kazakhstan with neighbouring countries (over 425 km with Turkmenistan, 2 400 km with Uzbekistan, over 1 240 km with Kyrgyzstan) and a weak technical equipment of border crossing points hamper capacity of the Border Guards and Customs personnel to always effectively block drug-trafficking channels. International cooperation plays a vital role in this area and we would like to single out BOMCA European Union Cooperation Programme aimed at strengthening our border regime.

Kazakhstan strongly believes that it is through inter-state cooperation in the region supported by intertational bodies and donor states we would be capable to take effective measures to weed out this common evil phenomenon. Being committed to this idea Kazakhstan has provided the necessary facilities to establish on its soil in Almaty City an institution named Central Asia Regional Drugs Control Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and is looking forward to be actively involved in its operation.

Creation of CARICC gives us a unique opportunity to jointly use information capacity of our countries, promptly plan and carry out special operations to detect and block international trafficking channels of drugs supply and apprehend transnational criminal narcotics trafficking groups.

The Agreement establishing Central Asia Regional Drugs Control Information and Coordination Centre to fight illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors will into effect on 22 March this year and the Centre will become fully operational. A few months later we plan to officially launch CARICC in Almaty City.

Special accent in the area of narcotics demand reduction is made on dependency prevention efforts and developing the culture of "zero-tolerance" to narcotics in the society. All respective government agencies, as well as near 50 NGO are involved in these activities.

The system that provides therapy and rehabilitation to drug-dependant individuals is being undergoing continuous reforms relying on modern scientific methods. In 2000 we created our National Research and Treatment Centre for Social and Medical Problems of Drug Dependant Individuals reporting to the Ministry of Health and it currently makes part of the TREATNET the global network of resource centres of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It serves as a Central Asia resource centre in the area of post-graduate education of professional experts in anti-narcotic dependency treatment services, organizing counter-addiction prevention measures for different targeted population groups.

Last year domestic criminal law was amended to provide for more severe punishment measures going up to life imprisonment for narcotics trafficking and sale and involving minors in drug dealing activities.

In accordance with relevant UN recommendations and taking into account positive experience gained by European countries we are developing a bill on anti-addiction treatment of drug-dependant criminals as alternative to effectively serving prison term for petty and minor offences.

The above measures have stabilized to a certain degree the situation with drugs in the country. For the last three years the number of addicts stays at approximately the same level. Moreover, there is a pronounced trend towards reduction of individuals controlled for drug consumption among minors.

However, according to expert reviews and monitoring research results the situation with narcotics in the Central Asia region will continue to be strained for a long time. In this connection there is areal need for the international community to step up joint concerted efforts in the area of narcotics control.

**Madam Chair,**

Kazakhstan fully supports the adopted Political Declaration and respective Action Plan, their integrated and balanced approach focused at international cooperation, technical assistance and principles of shared responsibility.

We are looking forward to stronger and wider international cooperation in the area of fighting against illegal drugs trafficking and express out belief that the renewed Political Declaration and Action Plan would be a major step towards increasing efficiency of measures to counter narcotics and drugs threats.

Thank you.