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**STATEMENT  
BY**

**DR. MARIA MABETOA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

**12 MARCH 2009  
Vienna**

**Check against delivery**

## **Report on Progress made in South Africa**

### **Follow-up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session**

Madam Chairperson

I wish to congratulate you and all members of the bureau on your election to office and assure you of the full support of the South African delegation.

Nearly 10 years ago at the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, South Africa together with other members of the UN pledged its support for the Political Declaration and the Action Plans to combat drug abuse. The South African delegation wishes to report on progress made in the above-mentioned instances.

Madam Chairperson

Like most countries South Africa also faces major challenges regarding narcotic drugs, according to the UN World Drug Report cannabis use in South Africa is twice the global norm. 8.9% of the population abuse cannabis while the statistic for the rest of the world is 4%. Only cocaine abuse is lower than the world norm with 0.3% as compared with 0.4% abuse in the rest of the world.

As part of the South African government endeavour to give effect to the action plans of 1998, the government took the initiative to establish a Central Drug Authority to coordinate and promote activities for combating substance abuse. The Central Drug Authority is technically supported by the National and Provincial Government Departments. A revised 2006 -2011 National

Drug Master Plan has been adopted by parliament and is being implemented at a National and Provincial level.

As a further Demand Reduction Strategy the S.A government in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime in Pretoria engaged in other drug prevention projects the most successful national drug awareness program being "Ke Moja - No thanks I am fine without Drugs" project targeting the in and out of school youth.

The Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act 20 of 1992 has been reviewed. The new bill promotes prevention, early intervention, community based interventions, after care and reintegration as the new focus areas. It also addresses the establishment of state subsidized public treatment centres and half way houses in each of our nine provinces to improve access to treatment facilities.

**Regarding Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Crops**, South Africa appreciates the complexity of the problem regarding cannabis and currently it does not pursue a specific programme for alternative development, but instead follows broader programmes to address the complex mix of socio-economic issues such as poverty eradication, job creation, housing, health, education and numerous other social development programmes. Law enforcement and crop eradication nevertheless remains an integral part of this process to ensure a balanced approach.

In the area of **judicial co-operation** we have shown good progress, South Africa has a Mutual Legal Assistance in International Criminal Matters Act, an Extradition Act, and a Prevention of Organised Crime Act.

Regarding **ATS and Pre-cursors**, South Africa wishes to report that, although it does not currently appear to be a major manufacturing site for illicit drugs, there is firm evidence that clandestine manufacturing of illicit drugs has been taking place in the country for more than a decade. In recent years the range of detected laboratories has broadened to include facilities manufacturing amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) including ecstasy and methamphetamine.

Clandestine manufacture of drugs in South Africa is also reflected in seizures of precursor chemicals. Co-operation in activities in this regard has taken place with France, Mozambique, India and other African States.

In order to support law enforcement, the South African Police has laboratories, which identify classify and store data on ATS's. Recently the South African Police, together with the UN Office for Drugs and Crime in Pretoria has published a logo index for use by law enforcement officers.

Referring now to **Money Laundering**, the South African delegation wishes to report that the South African Financial Intelligence Centre Act and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act are in place to address this problem.

Madam Chairperson, the South African Government is in particular looking forward to interaction with our international partners in the AU, SADC, UNODC and other relevant International partners for the eradication of poverty on our continent and uprooting the scourge of narcotic drugs.

As Africa strives towards shaping its own destiny, we are proud to be part of that process.

I thank you for your attention.