



ISRAEL ANTI-DRUG AUTHORITY



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Presented by

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Head of the Delegation

The State of Israel



Mrs. Chairperson, honored delegates:

At the outset, please accept my congratulations upon your election as Chairperson of our Committee and allow me to convey our congratulations to the other members of the Commission. The Israeli delegation would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our complete cooperation as you guide our deliberations this year.

I should also like to congratulate Mr. Antonio Maria Costa and to wish him success in leading the UNODC toward the realization of its highly challenging and globally important objectives.

Mrs. Chairperson,

Every year we stand here and share with you key aspects of our endeavors over the past year. This year, it is an honor to take part in this high level segment, and share with you and with the distinguished members of the Commission the extensive efforts which have been put forth by the State of Israel, in attempts to meet the goals and targets adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

Mrs. Chairperson,

I should like to start out by stressing that the State of Israel considers the dilemma of illegal drugs to be a global problem that encompasses the whole world, without exception. The common goal of all countries to overcome this problem, regardless of where they are located, lays the foundation for mutual cooperation that often rises above any kind of political considerations. The State of Israel believes that no country



alone is able to overcome this plague. Mutual cooperation is essential and over the years, the State of Israel has been working relentlessly towards strengthening regional cooperation and promoting the sharing of information. Several very successful study visits were organized between Israel and neighbors from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt, in fields ranging from prevention to law enforcement. Israeli representatives have recently participated in the regional law enforcement project, LexPro, another step towards enhancing information exchange and cooperation. Please allow us to commend the UNODC's Regional Office in Cairo for their efforts in promoting and facilitating our joint projects in the region.

Mrs. Chairperson,

Recognizing the importance of the drug issue, the Prime Minister of the State of Israel established the Israel Anti-Drug Authority (IADA). For two decades, all drug control efforts have been coordinated by IADA, the agency responsible for establishing national policies and for coordinating between all government and non-government entities involved in the war against drugs. IADA believes in the importance of conducting research in different areas, and strategies and activities are research-based. An interesting example of research conducted in the State of Israel involves the development of a method for detecting cannabis fields by remote sensing. This method has the capability to cover large areas in a short time and is also cost effective.

The State of Israel is committed to meeting the targets set out in the 10 year plan and has taken several measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem. As the State of Israel is not a producing and manufacturing country, most efforts have been targeted to countering illicit drug traffic and supply.



The 10 year plan calls for an action plan against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. Fortunately, the problem of ATS has not reached epidemic proportions in Israel, and prevalence of abuse is about 1%. However, recognizing that this is a problem growing quickly across the world, the State of Israel has joined the international community in its efforts to combat the problem of ATS. Over the past year, law enforcement officers worked intensely to combat the sale of "designer drugs" sold in convenience stores which are open 24 hours a day, seven days of the week. Legislative measures have been taken to promote rapid inclusion of new substances into the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, and in 2008 alone, 15 new substances were included. Credible and accurate information on the harmful consequences of ATS is provided to the public as part of general national public awareness campaigns.

The State of Israel recognizes the dangers inherent in the diversion of precursors and substances used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs. To prevent and control the diversion of precursors, a competent national authority was appointed, national legislation requiring permits for import and export of precursors is enforced, and good cooperation exists with the industrial sector. Timely and accurate exchange of information with other countries regarding import and export of precursors is also essential.

Over the years, the State of Israel has entered several bilateral and multilateral agreements and international conventions facilitating judicial cooperation with other countries in drug related cases, including matters such as mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceedings. The establishment of the Israel Money Laundering and Terror Financing Prohibition Authority offers yet another tool to combat drug related criminal and money laundering activities.



Mrs. Chairperson,

According to the WHO it has been estimated that 10% of the drugs sold on the global market are counterfeit. The State of Israel has recently established the Pharmaceutical Crime Unit, one of less than 20 such units around the world, whose main role is to fight counterfeit drugs and cosmetic products and to ensure public safety. The unit also closely monitors the sales of psychoactive substances sold in convenience stores, in order to identify as early as possible the sale of dangerous substances. Earlier last year, the State of Israel was accepted as a member of the Permanent Forum on International Pharmaceutical Crime - PFIPC, which consists of 15 member countries from around the world. We are proud to announce that in 2010, the State of Israel will be hosting the annual PFIPC Conference.

We are constantly looking to expand our already existing cooperative infrastructure with other countries and international organizations in order to promote mutual interest. Recently, we have been working towards strengthening the partnership with the European Union, through its European Neighboring Policy tool, for enhanced cooperation in the war against illicit drugs.

Mrs. Chairperson,

The State of Israel recognizes and agrees with the importance of the issues raised in the "Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction". In accordance, national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs focus on cultural and gender sensitive policies aimed to prevent drug use among the general, target and high-risk populations. Treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse victims and their families is a key goal. The State of Israel offers myriad of treatment methods, ranging from



drug detoxification, therapeutic communities, drug substitution and needle exchange programs, with the overall aim to provide unique solutions for each and every member of the community, and minimize the adverse consequences of drug abuse on the entire society.

We recognize the importance of a community-wide participatory approach, and have developed regional and local programs addressing the unique needs of each community. Furthermore, an amendment to the "Municipality Law" has made it compulsory for local municipalities to establish treatment services for drug abuse victims, and to offer education and prevention activities in their jurisdiction, as well as establishing a local committee for combating drugs.

Mrs. Chairperson,

Please allow me to reiterate once again Israel's firm commitment to international efforts to combat the plague of drug and international control strategies. Only through a joint effort by all members of the international community can progress be achieved. Mrs. Chairperson and honored delegates, I thank you for your attention.