

## TURKEY'S STATEMENT AT INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUPPLY REDUCTION

Turkey pursues firm policies to prevent illegal cultivation, production and manufacture of illicit drugs as well as drug related organized crime as part of its comprehensive and balanced approach to tackle the drug problem.

Due to its geographical location lying at the intersection of two continents, Turkey has become one of the transit routes for illegal drug trafficking.

Curbing the illegal trafficking is one of the priorities of Turkey in the fight against drugs and Turkish law enforcement and border control agencies work diligently to counter it.

The terrorist organization PKK also takes part in the illegal trafficking and uses the proceeds to finance its illegal activities and attacks on civilians and security personnel in Turkey. The organization also cultivates illegal substances within Turkey.

In 2016 Turkey has carried out successful operations to disrupt the illegal drug related activities of the PKK. At the end of June 2016, Counter Narcotics Department of the Turkish National Police and Turkish armed forces conducted operations aiming at eradicating the cultivation fields of cannabis that were planted by the terrorist organization in the South-eastern province of Diyarbakir. As a result, 17.414 kg of cannabis and 67.962 million roots of cannabis plants, with a market value of nearly 1,3 billion euros were seized.

Also, in 2016 in cooperation with several countries, 14.805 internationally controlled delivery operations were conducted where roughly 4,2 tonnes of heroin, 35 tonnes of cannabis, 570 kg of cocaine, 7,4 million tablets of captagon and 1,4 million tablets of ecstasy were seized.

In addition, as part of Turkish National Strategy, steps to prevent the availability of illegal drugs at street level have also intensified recently.

Through training programs organized by Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime, Turkey also continues contributing to the international efforts for capacity building of law enforcement officers in different fields from various regions both on bilateral and multilateral basis. In this context we're also pleased to be a donor of anti money laundering program within UNODC Southeast Europe Program.

Thank you.