

**High Level Segment of the 62nd Session of Commission on
Narcotic Drugs (CND)**

General Debate on the theme *“Taking Stock of the implementation of the commitment made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date”*

(Thursday the 14/15th March 2019 at S.No. .)

Statement of Revenue Secretary, Government of India,

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of India, I am honored to address this High Level Segment of the 62nd Session of CND. Let me first of all, congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as the Chairman of this session.

2. Mr. Chairman, the adoption of the ‘Political Declaration and Plan of Action’, in the year 2009, has guided global drug policy in the past decade. The High Level mid-term review in 2014, and the outcome document of the UNGASS 2016, further sharpened focus on the new challenges. In this period, Member States have strived hard to achieve the target of eliminating or significantly reducing the drug problem. While a lot has been done, we collectively agree that there is still some distance to be traveled.

3. As we are aware that the 2009 document calls for a comprehensive approach incorporating (i) Demand reduction, (ii) supply reduction and (iii) countering money laundering and promoting Judicial cooperation, to solve the

world drug problem. In India, there have been some major achievements since 2009, which I would like to place before this distinguished gathering.

4. To start with India adopted the '*National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*' in 2012. The Policy covers all aspects of the 2009 document. Given its sheer size and federal structure, drug control in India is a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency function. A comprehensive policy therefore serves as a benchmark for all agencies.

5. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to share that the Government of India, has recently come out with a report on national survey on extent and pattern of substance use in the country. The survey shall lead to more informed and evidence based policy as well as enforcement action. We have followed a three pronged strategy of: (i) awareness building (ii) Community based intervention and (iii) Training of volunteers/service providers, for demand reduction. We have adopted a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction for 2018-2025 to reduce adverse consequences of drug abuse and have set up a dedicated drug de-addiction helpline to help the victims and their families.

6. As per the spirit of UN Drug control Conventions of protecting the "health and welfare of mankind", we have incorporated 'Principle of Balance' in our drug legislation, in consultation with the civil society, to provide access to 'Essential Narcotic Drugs' for alleviating pain and suffering of those in need.

7. Mr. Chairman, India is a major manufacturer and trader of precursor chemicals, and therefore in 2013 we notified '*Regulations of Controlled Substances*' to increase control over manufacturing, import and export of

precursors figuring in the 1988 Convention. India is regularly scheduling the substances, recent of them is Tramadol notified as a psychotropic substance. We are using satellite imagery for identification and destruction of the illicit cultivation of the Cannabis and Poppy crops.

8. We are scrupulously following the PEN system of the INCB. We successfully stopped a huge export consignment of psychotropic substance in 2016, weighing 24 MT and it was duly acknowledged by INCB. We are confident that with the full implementation of such system at international level, we would be in a far better position to monitor movement of psychotropic substances, therefore reducing the chances of their diversion.

9. In 2014 we amended the principal legislation on money laundering to remove the threshold value for investigation. Recently convictions in cases related to drug trafficking have been secured under the money laundering laws.

10. Mr. Chairman, India is the producer of licit opium and we also have a very significant chemical and pharmaceutical base in the country. In addition, we are sandwiched between two of the most sensitive regions of illicit opiate production and trafficking. Thus conscious of its responsibility, we have entered into MOUs with 38 countries including its neighbors, for information sharing and capacity building initiatives.

11. While the achievements have been significant, there have also been global challenges, as can be seen from the reported estimated increase in illicit cultivation of crops, by 30% since 2009. Further, the number of persons consuming drugs has increased by 18%. The emergence of new form of synthetic

opioids and new psychoactive substances are new challenges. We need to continue our efforts to meet these challenges.

12. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would reiterate India's strong support and commitment to the U N's drug control system, the bulwark of which are three drug control Conventions. We believe that despite the challenges, the Conventions have provided the appropriate framework and therefore, need to be implemented in their proper spirit and not be diluted in any manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.