

Statement
by
Mr. Md. Shahiduzzaman,
Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs,
the Leader of Bangladesh Delegation to the
62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND),
at the Ministerial Segment
(Vienna, 15 March 2019)

His Excellency Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet -
Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs,

His Excellency Mr. Yury Fedotov - Executive Director of the United
Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

His Excellency Mr. Viroj Sumyai - President of the International
Narcotic Control Board

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

Let me first congratulate Ambassador Bakhet on his election as the
Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission, and also the other
elected members of the Bureau. I would also like to commend the
Secretariat for the important preparatory work and **excellent**
arrangements made for the current session.

Mr. Chair,

We fully align with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group
of 77 and China, as well as the Asia-Pacific Group. In my national
capacity, I would like to add the following:

As a State Party, Bangladesh reaffirms its full commitment to the
Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the
1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,
the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

Bangladesh is also fully committed to **and has in the meantime taken necessary measures for** the effective implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High Level Review in 2014 and the UNGASS 2016 outcome document.

In this context, Bangladesh notes with satisfaction the consensus and formal adoption of the Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration will become an important guiding reference beyond 2019 for effective implementation and follow-up of all our commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, which is a common and shared responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

Addressing the drug problem is high on the agenda of the present government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which was reflected in the 'Election Manifesto' of her political party - Bangladesh Awami League. The Government has therefore adopted a zero tolerance policy against illicit drugs. Inclusive awareness campaign has been undertaken to sensitize about the harmful effects of narcotic drugs through seminar, symposium, and assembly with the help of different ministries, departments and institutions, including educational institutions, in Bangladesh.

Nationally, Bangladesh has aligned its long-term policies and programmes with its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. In this context, we are also working towards long-term comprehensive and sustainable development oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes.

Currently, Bangladesh has four (4) treatment and rehabilitation centers, established by the government, and two-hundred ninety-

seven (297) centres operated by non-government entities to treat and rehabilitate users of narcotic drugs. Our government has the plan to set up such centres in all sixty-four administrative districts of the country.

Mr. Chair,

To tackle the emerging challenges of the world drug problem, we need to be innovative and effectively review our national provisions as well. We have updated our legal provisions and adopted a new Narcotics Control Act in 2018, including, inter alia, the Money Laundering (ML) prevention issues, measures against any primer of new narcotic drugs including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and revision of penal provisions. **Our national anti-narcotic drugs policy and strategy is working well for our country and is fully supported by the public.**

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh is not a source of production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances, and still a serious victim of illicit drug trafficking and critical socio-economic consequences. As such, we cannot over-emphasize the need for effective, concrete and increased cooperation at international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral level to address the world drug problem. We would request the Commission to take a hard look at the problems faced by the source countries with a view to guiding those countries as to how the supply of illicit drugs can be stopped or significantly reduced. **For our part, Bangladesh continues to earnestly work on demand reduction and related measures including prevention and treatment, as well as other health related measures by putting in place a number of effective programmes nationwide.**

At the same time, we would urge all states, through this Commission, to ensure sufficient and sustainable resources for the UNODC to increase its capacity-building initiatives, programmes and activities particularly for developing countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to conclude my statement by wishing for all of us a world free from the scourge of illicit drugs while reiterating Bangladesh's firm commitment to working closely with all of you for this goal.

I also reassure, Mr. Chair, of my delegation's full support and cooperation to make this important Ministerial Session successful.

Thank you.