



**STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE  
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS HELD  
ON 14<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**DELIVERED BY HON. PATRICK OLE NTUTU  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**



**Your Excellency Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet, Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

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

**Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Mr. Chairman,**

On behalf of the Kenya delegation, I congratulate you and the entire bureau upon your election. My delegation assures you of full support and cooperation to steer the session to a successful conclusion.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The persistent illicit drug cultivation, manufacture, trafficking and abuse of drugs and other controlled substances pose a serious threat to national security, public Safety, health and general welfare of our people in particular children, youth and women. It is a threat that jeopardizes our collective commitment and national efforts to deliver on the 2030 development agenda – an agenda that seeks to leave no one behind including people who inject drugs.

In addressing the world drug problem, Kenya recognizes and pays attention to the following key issues: -

- Increase of drug-related deaths and diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis;



- The need for a continuum of care that addresses prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration as well as harm reduction initiatives for injecting drug users;
- The need to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement and judicial system as well as improve on their close collaboration in combating drug-related issues;
- The need to enhance accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse;
- Enhanced international cooperation and partnership in combating the world drug problem given that it is a common and shared responsibility;
- Active participation of Civil Society Organizations in supplementing Government's efforts in providing evidence-based prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of Kenya has ratified the three international conventions on drug control and taken necessary measures to ensure that they are domesticated to provide a national framework for effective drug control. These measures have enabled Kenya to join the rest of the world in addressing the world drug problem at national, regional and international level.

On demand reduction, we have put in place prevention programmes that focus on children and youth in education settings, families, communities and the workplace. This is in compliance with the International Drug Use Prevention Standards that Kenya has adopted. Drug dependence treatment programmes are being implemented across the country including medically assisted treatment for heroin dependent persons towards restoring the health and dignity of affected persons.



As a transit country, Kenya is facing enormous strain on both financial and human resources required to address the world drug problem. To this end, Kenya has put in place special units and continue to build their capacity in addressing illicit drug trafficking. Further, at national level we have introduced the National Drug Control System Software that will automate and improve the timely exchange of information on controlled substances. With respect to the vulnerability of the vast coastline which is a major entry point for narcotic drugs, we have established the Coast Guard Unit and set up specialized units under the Container Control Programme to entrench sustainable enforcement at entry points.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The war on drugs comes at a great cost and Kenya faces serious challenges in trafficking of illicit small arms, human trafficking as well as drug trafficking. These crimes go hand in hand with money laundering that is used to finance terrorist activities which continue to be a threat to our national security. We therefore call on the international community to pay attention to the correlation between illicit drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism. Further, there is need to address issues regarding proceeds of drug-related crimes.

In line with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 and the UNGASS Outcome Document of 2016, Kenya calls for increased technical assistance to enhance national strategies in addressing the world drug problem in all its forms and manifestations.



**Mr. Chairman**

Kenya is convinced that the overall objective of international drug control should be to eliminate the availability and use of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that pose obvious health risks and undermine national security. We believe that the three International Conventions on drug control provide sufficient safeguards that allow access to such drugs and substances for medical and scientific purposes. Kenya, therefore, does not support imposing of legalization and de-criminalization of access to controlled substances for recreational purposes, as this will undermine national efforts to counter drug-related problems. Further, we believe it is important for each State to be allowed flexibility in addressing drug problems, taking into account national legislation and cultural considerations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I wish to reaffirm Kenya's unwavering commitment to the provisions of the three international drug control conventions and continued implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009. We are pleased to be party to the Ministerial Declaration that we will all be signing and believe that it will provide the impetus for full implementation of the three conventions and all other international commitments on drug control.

In conclusion, we call on enhanced international cooperation and support to developing countries. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address this forum.

**Thank you.**