

**STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TURKEY  
62<sup>th</sup> CND Ministerial Segment  
14-15March 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Excellency, for your Chairmanship. I assure you Turkey's full support and cooperation.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express our appreciation to the able UNODC Secretariat not only for the preparation of this important Session, but also for the support they are providing to us on a permanent basis.

**Before I start, I strongly condemn the horrific terrorist attack and present our condolences to New Zealand. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our meeting is yet another high level confirmation of the importance of the drug problem. This problem with its multifaceted nature could only be tackled through a multisectoral approach and strong international cooperation.

Our commitments in the three political documents adopted in 2009, 2014 and 2016 include the roadmap and extensive measures. Now it is time to accelerate the implementation of these commitments, as we undertook in the Ministerial Declaration .

The effective implementation of our commitments will not only be instrumental to achieve success in addressing and countering the drug problem, but also will help us in getting closer to achieving some of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

We also agreed in the Declaration to take further steps that would assist us to advance in the right direction. These include improving our data and knowledge of the problem, mobilizing more resources at national and international level, being vigilant of the new trends, and bringing together all sectors of the society in the fight against the problem.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey is fully committed to the three international drug conventions, which are the cornerstones of the international drug

control system. Their full and universal implementation is crucial for the effectiveness of the system. Naturally, we all bear the responsibility to implement the Conventions with full respect to the fundamental human rights principles.

The CND as the primary policy making body and the UNODC as the leading entity for international drug policies should continue to steer our endeavors. The INCB and the WHO within their treaty mandated functions continue to play very important roles as well. Our collective work will benefit from the contributions of all relevant UN entities.

Distinguished delegates,

We are deeply concerned by the ever expanding size of the drug market. Latest data on global illicit opiates and precursor trafficking indicate that this trend will likely to continue. There has also been a significant increase in the seizure of precursors that are aimed to be delivered through our country.

Criminal organizations make billions of Dollars through illegal manufacturing or trafficking of drugs, along with other forms of transnational crime. Naturally many terrorist organizations also get involved in these activities to fund their heinous activities. This is a serious threat and we should effectively cooperate to

counter it. We are happy that the Declaration also underlines this important aspect of the problem.

There is abundant evidence that PKK/PYD/YPG terrorist organization is directly involved in trafficking through its widespread connections in Europe and uses the benefits to finance its activities. In many recent operations conducted against PKK cells in Turkey, large amounts of illegal drugs have also been seized along with weapons and other material.

Excellencies,

The Turkish Government adopted last year its Counter Drug Strategy and Plan of Action for the years 2018-2023.

The Strategy is based on a balanced and comprehensive approach. The Action Plan comprises measures that target both demand and supply reduction within a coordinated national framework.

In this context, new and comprehensive preventive methods are introduced; treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration services and programs have been significantly increased in the demand reduction dimension.

In the prevention area, effective and successful government-civil society partnerships are developed. Green Crescent Society and other NGO's have assumed important roles in this field.

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, tangible progress has been achieved in provision of better public services in the treatment and rehabilitation fields as well as availability of the controlled substances.

Ministry of Health, Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency introduced the new Colored Prescription System in order to prevent the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances without limiting their medical use in a more effective way.

We are also increasing the national capacity of data collection on substance dependence trends to correctly and adequately address the challenges.

On the other side, we continue fighting against the traffickers and street level sellers of illicit drugs.

Turkey canalizes huge national resources to counter drugs and precursors trafficking. The Turkish National Police, Gendarmerie, Coast Guard and Customs authorities continue to

successfully seize a significant portion of illicit drugs trafficking through our territory. Within the first months of 2019, several tons of heroin, cocaine and acetic anhydride and millions of captagon tablets have been seized. New technological equipment and surveillance systems are also developed and employed by the relevant authorities to combat more effectively against the illegal drug related activities.

Cooperation of the law enforcement authorities with their regional counterparts also plays an essential role in successful operations against transnational drug trafficking networks. We fully support the further strengthening of the regional cooperation in this field.

Turkey is seriously concerned about the increasing use of new psychoactive substances, especially among the youth. Tackling this emerging threat is one of the priority areas in our national efforts . We believe that misuse of Internet for drug related crimes is also a growing threat that we should jointly work on.

On the other hand, Turkey, as one of the legal and reliable opiate raw material supplier for medical and scientific purposes, not only takes all necessary measures to increase the quality of the crops, but also applies strict controls that prevent any diversion.

Distinguished delegates,

Turkey adheres to the principle of shared responsibility and has been trying to contribute in a positive manner to the international efforts towards strengthening the collective responses to drug related challenges. In this vein, we have been offering assistance to many countries in their capacity building efforts.

Training programs conducted by the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime in various fields has so far constituted a major pillar of our assistance programs. In 2018 a new institution focusing mainly on counter-narcotic training was also established within the Turkish National Police. The Counter Narcotics Training Academy has already hosted many training programs for hundreds of participants from different countries.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm my country's strong commitment to our common efforts and also reiterate our support to the success of this session.

Thank you.