



STATEMENT

BY ZAMBIA AT THE OCCASION OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS HELD IN VIENNA AUSTRIA FROM 14TH TO 22ND MARCH 2019

Agenda Item 4: General Debate of the Ministerial Segment

Chairperson,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating the Chairperson of the Ministerial Segment and CND for being elected to lead this session, and commend the UNODC and all the delegates for their commitment in the preparation of the Ministerial segment and the Ordinary session of the 62nd CND.

The 2009 Political Declaration and Action Plan established 2019 as the target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably illicit drug supply and demand, the diversion and trafficking of precursors and money laundering. Since we are now in 2019, it is time to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem.

Chairperson; Available international and regional reports point to the fact that we are far from achieving our commitments as set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

The World Drug Report of 2018 shows that both the range of drugs and drug markets are expanding and diversifying as never before. The globe Society is facing a potential supply-driven expansion of drug markets, with production of opium and manufacture of cocaine at the highest levels ever recorded. Markets for cocaine and methamphetamine are extending beyond their usual regions, while drug trafficking online using the dark-net continues to represent only a fraction of drug trafficking as a whole.

Chairperson, as we look beyond 2019 and establish a new time-line, we need to step up our responses to address the world drug problem and its related vices; such as money laundering, corruption and terrorism, by building on the successes that we have scored so far. Therefore, Zambia supports the adoption of the ministerial outcome document and we are hopeful that it will send a strong political message on addressing the world drug problem.

Further, Zambia reaffirms that the three International Drug Conventions and related Protocols continue to be the cornerstones for combating the world Drug Problem. Any departure from the dictates of the international drug conventions will effectively imply that society has failed to fight organized crime and to protect the health of its citizens.

In demonstrating the commitment to the implementation demand reduction and related measures, Zambia approved and launched a National Alcohol Policy in May 2018, which has provided guidance on evidence-based public health approach to significantly reduce alcohol harm on individuals and society at large.

Further, Zambia is in the process of developing a Drug and Substance Control Policy which will strike a balance between supply reduction efforts and demand reduction measures, and mobilising resources for prevention and treatment of drug abuse and disorders, and will bring all key stakeholders on board thereby ensuring no one is left behind.

Chairperson; Zambia is reviewing its laws on Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to address new and emerging challenges and has since developed a 2018-2021 Strategic Plan which seeks to provide a clear

and well-defined strategic direction on combating the drug problem and money laundering.

Chairperson; In an effort to enhance drug supply reduction and related measures, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation, Zambia has continued to cooperate with international and regional organisations in capacity building programmes and in promoting the exchange of best practices, information sharing and successful experiences in the area of drug supply reduction. In this regard, the Country has signed and operationalised a number of agreements with both regional and international stakeholders. Therefore, Zambia wishes to recognise the role of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-USA and EU-ACT in promoting and enhancing international and regional cooperation in combating illicit drugs and money laundering.

Further, Zambia is reviewing its legal and policy framework on Anti-Money laundering and Countering financing of terrorism, to make it more effective and compliant to international standards, and has since operationalised the National Anti-Terrorism Centre. In addition, Zambia has continued to enhance judicial cooperation through the implementation of mutual legal assistance provisions.

The country is committed to addressing money laundering and related offences such as corruption. Currently, some high ranking government officials are being investigated for money laundering and corruption.

In conclusion, Zambia remains committed to implementing commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem and calls for continued support from UNODC and all international stakeholders.

I thank you.