MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

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Drafted: By General Directorate for Security Cooperation and Border Affairs
Mr. Chair, H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhit, Excellences, and Distinguished head of delegates,

I am representing a government which is struggling at the far front of the illicit drug production. Illicit production, manufacture, trafficking in and diversion of drugs and precursors as well as state-sponsored Narco-terrorism, transnational organized crime and the growing drug market are the most pressing issues of our time that continue to destabilize international peace and security. In Afghanistan, a country facing imposed conflict for over four decades, the nexus between narcotics and insecurity is well reflected I various UNODC and INCB reports.

Illicit drugs remain a growing concern of human community and the international peace and security. This menace, coupled with unemployment, and poverty, has intensified its negative impact on our society, where many ordinary Afghan citizens are currently addicted to narcotics. According to a 2018 survey, more than 3 million Afghans are victims of this global epidemic, which creates severe problems in the family structure, as well as exacerbate pressures on existing treatment facilities.
Mr. Chairman,

Our National Drugs Control Strategy (NDCS) and National Drug Action Plan (NDAP) outlines Afghanistan’s intention to pursue a balanced, comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable approach to countering illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse. This plan, which integrates alternative development, eradication, interdiction, drug treatment and prevention programs into a broad effort by the government of Afghanistan to further good governance, economic development, security and stability.

Afghan government is highly committed to countering the drug problem with concrete actions and policy directions. From Jan- 2009 to March 2019, we conducted 25183 operations leading to the arrest of 27,523 suspects, including foreign nationals, and seizure of 956.8 metric ton opiates as well as 1,245 metric tons cannabis resin. Further, we destroyed 526 drug processing labs and 60 storage facilities.

Despite our resolve actions to curb illicit production and trafficking in of narcotic drugs, we are well aware that a significant percentage of Afghanistan’s drug production takes place in its insecure provinces. It benefits directly or indirectly the illicit economy, illegal armed groups and terrorism.
Furthermore, the Afghan government is utilizing social and economic tools within the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) to alleviate unfavorable social conditions that has led to an exponential increase in drug abuse.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Afghanistan is a drug producing country, the product is being supplied in a market and transited via certain countries. Among the demand market and transiting countries, Afghanistan is one out of ten. There are a great deal of countries who are engaged in the process. Hence addressing this global problem requires comprehensive, multifaceted, and concerted actions by all of us at national, *regional, and international level*.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan has admitted those mechanisms and initiatives which are dedicated to combat illicit narcotics. Despite the fact that we have made some progress what we miss is a full- fledge strategy that brings all these efforts into one framework. The strategy, would not only bring different aspects of the fight into framework but also different countries into that framework. The Counter Narcotics Regional Strategy developed by the Afghan government can be a solid foundation for next steps.
In conclusion, Afghanistan has initiated several undertakings to properly and efficiently tackle the drug problem and we remain committed to do our part. However, we need the continued support of the international community as we strive to overcome this menace collectively. I thank all our partners and allies for supporting us in this endeavor.

Thank you.