

**STATEMENT OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S HEAD OF DELEGATION,
DATIN SERI PADUKA HAJAH ELINDA BINTI HAJI C.A. MOHAMMAD,
DEPUTY MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
DURING THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF
THE 62ND OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)
14 MARCH 2019, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Bismillahirrahmanirahim

Your Excellency Chairperson,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

A very good afternoon to everyone here,

1. It is an honour to have this opportunity to speak at the Ministerial Segment of the Sixty-Second Session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs. I wish to extend my congratulation to Your Excellency on assuming the Chair of this session.

2. Brunei Darussalam adopts a multi-pronged and balanced approach and strategy to promote national security, health and socio-economic development. Nearly 38% of the drug abusers arrested in Brunei Darussalam in 2018 are between the age group of 30 – 39, with more than three quarter of our arrestees being males and 54% are those who are unemployed. The majority of our arrests are locals who are small-scale traffickers whose illegal proceeds generally end up as personal income, while the most commonly abused drug remains to be Methamphetamine.

3. Although the illicit drug situation in Brunei Darussalam remains to be under control, and there has not been any detection of illicit drug production or diversion of precursor chemicals, our laws will need to be further enhanced accordingly in order to meet the evolving rise in abuse of illicit drugs globally. This will allow a proactive enforcement to be taken as well as provide greater levels of effective deterrence. In saying this, there is a need for us to continue to stay vigilant and

continue to cooperate and coordinate with one another to prevent illicit drug abuse from worsening.

4. In addition, public awareness campaigns are important to advocate preventive drug education on the consequences of drug abuse. It is also equally important to educate and raise awareness to the public of herbal products or plants that are being used as decorative floral gardening, and those used for traditional medicine that may contain controlled substances or its generic substances.

5. Brunei Darussalam like many other countries is fully committed in enhancing extra-regional joint efforts and cooperation in tackling transnational drug crimes. Brunei Darussalam align ourselves to the ASEAN's vision of a Drug-Free ASEAN through a zero-tolerance approach against drugs.

6. In deciding the best approach to address the drug problem, the sovereign right of each state needs to be respected in deciding and implementing policies, taking into account the diverse political, economical, social and cultural contexts as well as the norms of society of each country, as there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach in addressing drug issues.

7. The drug policy reforms recently undertaken by some countries, that legalises controlled drugs for non-medical and non-scientific use that have been widely discussed during the recent ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drugs in Vietnam which will be delivered by our learned counterpart from Vietnam represents ASEAN's standing on this matter. We maintain that the 1961, 1971 and 1988 UN conventions are the cornerstone of the international drug control framework.

8. We recognize that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) has played an important role as the principal policy-making body for international drug control and wish to reiterate our unwavering support of the work of CND and International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

9. With the growing challenges in the global and regional drug situation, international cooperation is more vital than ever. We must continue to uphold the international drug control conventions, which are based on a shared responsibility and a common understanding of the world drug problem. Towards our commitment and aspiration for a Drug-Free community nationally, regionally and internationally, we will continue to safeguard our community from drug abuse and stay united together in our fight against illicit drugs.

Thank you.
